



Senate so far split neatly along party lines on impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is so far cleaving neatly along party lines in advance of Wednesday's virtually certain votes to acquit President Donald Trump on two impeachment charges, with just two or three undecided members even considering breaking with their party. A leading GOP moderate, Susan Collins of Maine, announced she will vote to acquit Trump, leaving Utah

Sen. Mitt Romney as the only potential GOP vote to convict Trump of abusing his office and stonewalling Congress. Collins said "it was wrong" for Trump to ask Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate his political rival, Joe Biden, but that Trump's conduct, however flawed, does not warrant "the extreme step of immediate removal from office."

Continued on next page



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, walks from the Senate Floor on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 in Washington.

Associated Press

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Collins voted to acquit former President Bill Clinton at his trial in 1999. More typical of the GOP side was Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who again slammed the impeachment drive of House Democrats as "the most rushed, least fair and least thorough" in history and confirmed that he will vote to acquit Trump. The trial is cruising to impeachment tallies that will fall short of even a majority of the GOP-held Senate, much less the two-thirds required to remove Trump from office and install Vice President Mike Pence. The final days of the trial have focused attention on a handful of senators in both parties who were viewed as potential votes to break with their party. GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski

of Alaska called the president's actions "shameful and wrong" in a powerful speech late Monday, but she also derided the highly partisan process. "I cannot vote to convict," she said, though she also sees blame within the Senate. "We are part of the problem, as an institution that cannot see beyond the blind political polarization," Murkowski told reporters after her speech. Other Republicans, such as Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rob Portman of Ohio, also say Trump's actions to withhold military aid from Ukraine while pressing Zelenskiy to announce an investigation into Biden and his son Hunter were inappropriate, but fell short of warranting his removal from office, especially in an election year.



In this image from video, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., speaks on the Senate floor about the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

"The aid went; the investigations did not occur," Portman said.

Democrat after Democrat took to the Senate floor to announce they would vote to convict Trump, with senior Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., outraged by the conduct of White House lawyers, who he said performed for an audience of one — meaning Trump — while playing fast and loose with the facts.

"The presentation by White House counsel was characterized by smarminess, smear, elision, outright misstatement, and various dishonest rhetorical tricks that I doubt they would dare to pull before judges," said Whitehouse.

West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, perhaps the only Democrat seen as a likely vote to acquit Trump, has floated the idea of censuring Trump instead, though the idea doesn't seem to be gaining much traction. Sen. Doug Jones, a former federal prosecutor and Democrat seeking reelection in strongly pro-Trump Alabama, told reporters he's likely to announce his vote Wednesday morning. No member of either party has indicated yet that they will break with their party colleagues. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate.

McConnell said the two charges against Trump —

that he abused his power and obstructed Congress' ensuing investigation — are "constitutionally incoherent" and don't "even approach a case for the first presidential removal in American history."

The Kentucky Republican opened the Senate with a scathing assessment of the case presented by House Democrats, but he did not address whether Trump's actions were inappropriate or wrong, as some Senate Republicans have conceded. McConnell has dodged question about whether Trump's actions — pressuring Zelenskiy to announce an investigation into the Bidens — were inappropriate. He led an effort last week to deny Democrats any opportunity to call witnesses before the Senate, and he has worked closely with the Trump White House in shepherding the case through the Senate.

Top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York weighed in immediately after McConnell's remarks, accusing the Republican leader and his GOP colleagues of sweeping Trump's misconduct under the rug. "The administration, its top people and Senate Republicans are all hiding the truth," Schumer said. The charges are extremely serious. To interfere in an election, to blackmail a foreign country, to interfere in our elections gets at

the very core of what our democracy is about."

The Senate is scheduled to vote on the two impeachment articles Wednesday afternoon. Trump is delivering his State of the Union address Tuesday night, a platform in which he appears before Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the powerful House speaker who orchestrated last year's House impeachment drive.

Also Tuesday on the Senate floor, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., repeated a question that Chief Justice John Roberts, who is presiding over the trial, refused to read last week. Roberts' staff communicated to McConnell's staff that he did not want to read the whistleblower's name, according to a Republican familiar with the situation who wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

Paul denies trying to out the whistleblower and notes his question didn't use the word. He questions whether the whistleblower may have conspired with House staff aides in writing the August complaint that triggered impeachment.

U.S. whistleblower laws exist to protect the identity and careers of people who bring forward accusations of wrongdoing by government officials. Lawmakers in both parties have historically backed those protections.

The Associated Press typically does not reveal the identity of whistleblowers. Separately, Trump's approval rating, which has generally languished in the mid- to low-40s, hit a new high of 49% in the latest Gallup polling, which was conducted as the Senate trial was drawing to a close. The poll found that 51% of the public views the Republican Party favorably, the first time the GOP's number has exceeded 50% since 2005. □

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Girl's fall into grease pit prompts effort to toughen fines

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Kara Cvechko recalled her heart pounding as she scrambled headfirst down into an outdoor grease pit to save her 5-year-old daughter who had fallen through an unsecured

rant fails to comply. It now goes to the House of Delegates. The outdoor grease pits would be required to have locked manhole covers designed to withstand loads and prevent access by

ter gasping for air. "The smell is something I can't even describe," Cvechko said. "I really thought it was raw sewage." The substance was so slick that it required her holding onto her daughter's arm with

both of her own arms, "and she was still slipping." "I was just really scared and overwhelmed at the whole situation." Eventually, Kambria was lifted to the surface. She underwent X-rays at a hos-

pital and was treated for a few cuts but otherwise was fine. Outdoor grease tanks can hold hundreds of gallons and are designed to keep used oil and grease out of sewer systems. □



In this screen grab provided by WCHS-TV on Nov. 15, 2019 shows Kara Cvechko, left, at her home in South Charleston, W.Va., with her 5-year-old daughter, Kambria.

Associated Press

opening at a West Virginia restaurant. Kambria Cvechko's birthday celebration turned to horror on Nov. 11 when she stepped on the loose lid and fell through. Submerged in grease, she was eventually pulled out. "You see an accident and your mom instincts just kick in," Cvechko said. It was at least the fourth such incident involving a child falling into a grease pit nationwide since 2017. Two of them were fatal. Now legislation is moving through the West Virginia Legislature to toughen fines for restaurants that fail to secure the lids of those collection pits. The state Senate passed a bill on a 33-0 vote Tuesday that would increase fines from \$5 to \$50 for each day that a restau-

children. "We need to take every measure possible to ensure the public's safety," said the bill's sponsor, Sen. Glenn Jeffries, a Putnam County Democrat. Cvechko said she would also like to see other states pass similar laws. She and her family were leaving a Charleston restaurant when Kambria and other children ran to play on a grassy area. When Cvechko told the children to come to the car, Kambria unknowingly walked across the pit's lid, which flipped like a teeter-totter, sending her through the narrow opening. Screaming for help, Kara Cvechko scurried down the hole headfirst as two other children anchored her feet. She could hear her daugh-

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The chamber of the House of Representatives is seen at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, as it is prepared for President Donald Trump to give his State of the Union address Tuesday night.

Associated Press

White House excludes CNN from Trump session, with no protest

NEW YORK (AP) — The White House excluded CNN on Tuesday from its annual off-the-record briefing with television news personalities prior to the State of the Union address with no public protest from the network or any other journalists who attended.

No news organization boycotted the event to show

support for CNN, in contrast to the British journalists who walked out of a Monday meeting with an aide to Prime Minister Boris Johnson to back competitors who were being kept from the session.

The lunch on State of the Union day is a tradition that predates President Donald Trump. CNN's Wolf Blitzer and Anderson Cooper attended in 2019. Blitzer has been to some two decades' worth of such meetings. CNN confirmed that none of its journalists were invited this year, but it declined comment on the action. The network has been Trump's most frequent target in his complaints about journalists.

White House Press Secretary Stephanie Grisham declined to comment about the lunch. Although journalists who accept the invitation agree not to report on what is said there, details of the meeting inevitably slip out. In 2017, it was reported that CBS' Scott Pelley asked Trump about whether his attacks on journalists could put some in danger. A year later, Trump reportedly upbraided NBC's Lester Holt over an interview he was unhappy with.

On Tuesday, Fox News Channel's Bret Baier was interviewed on the air shortly after the lunch — with the White House in the background — giving two details that Trump allowed to be on the record: that his State of the Union address would be "extraordinarily low key," and a prediction that New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez would challenge Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer in a primary.

Asked by colleague Dana

Perino whether impeachment would be talked about during the speech, Baier said, "I think it's going to be a slight mention but not a big mention."

Journalists who have attended the lunches generally consider them a chance to convey things that are uppermost on a president's mind, while it's an opportunity for the White House to hammer home talking points.

This year, CNN was denied any of those insights.

"It is just outrageous that the White House is doing what they're doing," said Frank Sesno, director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University and a former CNN Washington bureau chief. "It ratchets up the war with journalists and, as far as I'm concerned, the general public."

Bob Schieffer, former evening news anchor and host of "Face the Nation" on CBS, said he attended many of these State of the Union briefings in the past and didn't think CNN was missing much. "To be quite honest about it, it was a fun thing to do and I always got a kick out of going," Schieffer said, "but I don't think it made much of a difference in the coverage."

That's one of the reasons that Jane Kirtley, director of the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law at the University of Minnesota, said other journalists should have taken a cue from their British counterparts and boycotted the White House meeting.

"If the stakes are as low as they are in a case like this, why not use this as an opportunity to take a stand?" Kirtley said. □

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Official: 2nd student dies after truck hits Oklahoma runners

By **KEN MILLER**
Associated Press

MOORE, Okla. (AP) — A second suburban Oklahoma City high school student has died after a group of cross-country runners was struck by a pickup truck that authorities say was driven by man whose son was killed in a traffic crash over the weekend, a school official said Tuesday.

Sophomore Yuridia Martinez, who had been hospitalized in critical condition since the Monday crash, has since died, Dustin Horstkoetter, director of safety and security at Moore Public Schools, said. Officials had previously said that senior Rachel Freeman was killed when the truck slammed into members of the school's cross-country team.

Moore police Sgt. Jeremy Lewis said authorities believe the students were running on the sidewalk when they were struck. Authorities had previously said they were running along a street outside Moore High School.

Three other students remained hospitalized with injuries. Student Kolby Crum was in critical condition at Oklahoma Children's Hospital, according to spokeswoman April Sandefer, while students Joseph White and Shiloh Hutchin-

son were in fair condition. Student Ashton Baza was released Monday night. The ages of the students have not been released. School Superintendent Robert Romines praised the reaction of students at the scene of the crash.

"Without hesitation or second thought, our students were there with their friends and began life-saving tactics including CPR," Romines said.

Freeman was set to sign a track and field scholarship this week with Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, Horstkoetter said.

Max Leroy Townsend, 57, was being held in the Cleveland County jail on charges of first-degree manslaughter and six counts of failure to stop and render aid. Police suspect alcohol was a factor, according to Lewis, who said results from toxicology tests were pending.

"That won't be for quite a while," Lewis told The Associated Press. "That's a blood test that requires being sent to a lab."

Lewis said Townsend's son, Cody Townsend, was killed Sunday in a multi-vehicle crash in Moore. But investigators have not yet determined why the pickup crashed into the students on Monday or whether that crash was intentional, Lewis said.

"I know the big question a lot of people have is, 'Why? What happened? Why did this happen?'" Lewis said. "I assure you we will find out why and know exactly what happened, and how it happened, and then deal with the individual that caused this after that investigation is complete," he added. □



This Feb. 3, 2020 photo from the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office shows Max Leroy Townsend.

Associated Press

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Kansas no longer fighting claims of wrongly convicted man

By **JOHN HANNA**
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP)—Kansas is dropping its fight against the compensation claim from a man who spent 23 years in prison for a double homicide before a judge vacated convictions that were secured even though no physical evidence or motive tied him to the crimes, the state's attorney general said Tuesday.

Attorney General Derek Schmidt said in an Associated Press interview that his office made the decision after reviewing 900 pages of documents from Lamonte McIntyre's attorney that had not been provided to it previously. He also said an ongoing Kansas Bureau of Investigation review of the 1994 crimes for which McIntyre, from Kansas City, Kansas, was charged turned up new information. Schmidt said his office will work with McIntyre's attorney on a settlement to present to a Shawnee County District Court judge. He said that under a 2018 Kansas law, McIntyre is likely to receive \$1.5 million from the state — \$65,000 for each year he spent in prison — plus money to cover attorney fees and other expenses.

McIntyre's case was one of several that prompted the law requiring the state to compensate victims of wrongful convictions, and Schmidt, a Republican, had received bipartisan criticism for resisting McIntyre's



In this Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018, file photo, Lamonte McIntyre, convicted of a 1994 double homicide in Kansas City, Kan., sits before the Senate Judiciary Committee where he urged them to approve a bill creating a compensation system in Kansas for people wrongfully convicted of crimes.

Associated Press

compensation claim while agreeing to two others.

"Because we knew there was evidence that was never placed in front of a court, before we just signed off on a claim, we had an obligation to the new court to collect and review all of the evidence," Schmidt said. "We've now done that."

McIntyre was 17 in 1994 when he was arrested for the killings of 21-year-old Doniel Quinn and 34-year-old Donald Ewing, who

were shot in broad daylight.

McIntyre received two life sentences in their deaths, but he was freed in 2017 after a local prosecutor asked the court to vacate his convictions and to drop all charges, calling his case an example of "manifest injustice." Prosecutors' case had largely hinged on testimony that was allegedly coerced.

"Today's decision by the Kansas Attorney General goes one step further, by

recognizing that Lamonte qualifies for compensation under the Kansas statute," Cheryl Pilate, McIntyre's attorney, said in a statement. "Lamonte is still dealing with the effects of 23 years of wrongful imprisonment, but the funding and other support provided by the statute will now make his load a little easier to bear."

When signing the wrongful-conviction compensation law, then-Republican Gov. Jeff Colyer apologized to McIntyre and the other

men and said, "We will make it right."

A bipartisan group of legislators had been planning a Feb. 17 rally to show their support for McIntyre and pressure Schmidt's office into backing McIntyre's compensation claim. State Rep. Cindy Holscher, a Kansas City-area Democrat, said it was "retraumatizing" for McIntyre to face a court battle over whether he was compensated.

Holscher said many of her fellow lawmakers thought McIntyre had already received compensation from the state.

"I think there was the assumption that, well, of course, he was exonerated, why wouldn't he have been paid already?" Holscher said. "Many were not aware of the fact that this was going to be dragging out."

Schmidt said a compensation claim is essentially a lawsuit involving the state. In some cases, he said, his office can decide that compensation is warranted by reviewing the existing court record, but in McIntyre's case, he wanted to review the additional evidence available.

As for paying McIntyre, he said: I'm hopeful there won't be much further delay."

Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly and the top eight leaders of the Republican-controlled Legislature would have to review any settlement language. □

Tulsa searches for remains of victims of 1921 race massacre

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The city of Tulsa will conduct a test excavation at an area cemetery as part of an ongoing effort to find remains of victims of a 1921 race massacre, officials said.

The test excavation at Oaklawn Cemetery, planned for April, was announced during the city's Mass Graves Investigation Public Oversight Committee meeting on Monday, the Tulsa World reported. The meeting came a little more than a month after

investigators announced that geophysical surveys conducted in October had found anomalies consistent with possible graves. "We would see this as an intermediate step," Kary Stackelbeck, a state archaeologist, said. "If we were to identify evidence that we seem to believe at the time is consistent with race massacre victims, we would want to leave them in a state that allows for us to come back and undertake future investigations

and a recovery effort in a more thoughtful and well-planned-out fashion."

Tulsa's mayor announced in 2018 that the city would re-examine sites in search of victims of the 1921 massacre. The sites were last inspected by the Tulsa Race Riot Commission in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

The massacre happened over the course of 16 hours, from May 31 to June 1, 1921, when mobs of white residents attacked black residents and businesses.

As many as 300 people were killed, hundreds more injured and thousands left homeless. Tulsa's prosperous black business district known as Black Wall Street was destroyed.

Stackelbeck said the test excavation at Oaklawn will provide much more detail than the geophysical surveys did.

"With the geophysical data, it doesn't see bodies," Stackelbeck said. "It doesn't tell us who's down there. It doesn't tell us, are

there people there? And if they are there, are they in coffins?"

City officials also provided an update on its search at Rolling Oaks Cemetery. The city has said that the cemetery's owners have been reluctant to allow a site identified by historical investigators to be surveyed because it is beneath some known interments. Deputy Mayor Amy Brown said officials are now close to an agreement with the cemetery's owners. □

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Sons of Confederate Veterans appeals Christmas parade denial

By KEVIN MCGILL

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A group that was denied permission to march in a Louisiana city's Christmas parade when it insisted on carrying Confederate battle flags asked a federal appeals court Tuesday to revive its lawsuit alleging constitutional violations. The permit for the Louisiana Sons of Confederate Veterans was denied in late 2015, months after the slayings of nine black worshippers at a South Carolina church by white supremacist Dylann Roof. Pictures on social media of Roof posing with Confederate battle flags led to renewed opposition to public displays of Confederate iconography around the nation.



In this June 3, 2011 file photo, Sons of Confederate Veterans and others march through downtown Shreveport, La., on their way to commemorate Confederate Memorial Day near the Confederate flag and monument in front of Caddo Parish Courthouse.

Associated Press

In the city of Natchitoches, a nonprofit group that organized the annual parade denied a permit to the SCV after city officials expressed concerns that some in the city would be offended by the display of Confederate battle flags, and that protests might disrupt the procession. Judges with the 5th U.S. Circuit court of Appeals panel that heard arguments Tuesday made clear that the Confederate group had legitimate freedom of speech issues if a governmental agency denied them a permit — even amid security concerns. Judge Catharina Haynes rhetorically asked whether African Americans could be denied permission to march in a parade if white supremacists threatened to disrupt the event.

But the case hinges largely on the role of a nonprofit group — the Historic District Business Association. That group, which runs the parade under an agreement with the city, denied the permit. Last year, U.S. District Judge Dee Drell dismissed the lawsuit, which named the city and the HDBA as defendants, saying the HDBA was not a government agency, or "a state actor" in legal terms, and that the city did not issue the permit. Arguing for the SCV, attorney Dick Knadler cited a letter written by the mayor and concerns expressed at city public hearings. He argued that the HDBA acted at the behest of the city and in a government role. "My client is not a government entity," responded

Jack Truitt, attorney for the HDBA. And attorney Ronald Corkern, arguing for the city, insisted that permitting was not a city decision. Attorneys questioned both sides closely on how city officials' actions might have influenced the HDBA. "The mayor had his lawyer conduct the meetings," Judge Jennifer Elrod noted when Corkern discussed city officials' efforts to reach a compromise with the SCV. Questioning Knadler, Haynes questioned whether the mayor's public opposition was a binding city policy, absent a vote by the City Council. The three-judge panel — Elrod, Haynes and Leslie Southwick — gave no indication when they would rule. □



In this photo made available by the Florida Highway patrol shows confiscated drugs following the arrest of two men Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, Santa Rosa County, Fla.

Associated Press

Package labeled 'Bag Full of Drugs' leads to Florida arrests

MIAMI (AP) — Two men charged with drug trafficking could have done a better job hiding their wares than using a package labeled "Bag Full of Drugs," Florida authorities said. Ian Simmons and Joshua Reinhardt, both 34, were pulled over in Santa Rosa County on Saturday after

a trooper clocked them going 95 mph (153 kph) on Interstate 10 on the state's Panhandle, according to a Florida Highway Patrol arrest report. The trooper determined that Reinhardt was the subject of an active felony warrant for violation of probation in Orange County. He requested backup. □

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U.N. chief warns 'a wind of madness is sweeping the globe'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Tuesday that "a wind of madness is sweeping the globe," pointing to escalating conflicts from Libya and Yemen to Syria and beyond.

At a wide-ranging news conference, he said, "All situations are different but there is a feeling of growing instability and hair-trigger tensions, which makes everything far more unpredictable and uncontrollable, with a heightened risk of miscalculation."

The U.N. chief also expressed great frustration that legally binding U.N. Security Council resolutions "are being disrespected before the ink is even dry."

Guterres singled out Libya where he called the current offensives by the warring parties "a scandal" — coming soon after world powers and other key countries adopted a road map to peace in Berlin on Jan. 19 that called for respect for a U.N. arms embargo, an end to foreign interference in the fighting by rival governments and



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a Holocaust memorial event at U.N. headquarters, Monday, Jan. 27, 2020.

Associated Press

steps toward a cease-fire. Libya has been in turmoil since 2011, when a civil war toppled longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi who was later killed.

A weak U.N.-recognized administration that holds the capital Tripoli and parts of the country's west is backed by Turkey and to a lesser degree Qatar and Italy. On the other side is

Gen. Khalifa Hifter, whose forces launched a surprise offensive to capture the capital last April from their base in the country's east and are backed by the United Arab Emirates and Egypt as well as France and Russia.

Guterres said the 55-point Berlin agreement has been repeatedly violated by fighting and continuing

arms deliveries. "We are seeing more and more civilians being targeted, ... migrants in a desperate situation and all the commitments that were made apparently were made without a true intention of respecting them," he said. The secretary-general also expressed "enormous concern" at the escalation of attacks in Idlib, Syria's last rebel-held province with a population of 3 million, and said the U.N. is "particularly worried" that the escalation now includes the Syrian and Turkish armies bombing each other. He again urged a cessation of hostilities "before the escalation comes to a situation that then becomes totally out of control."

As for Yemen, Guterres said he was very encouraged recently to see Iranian-backed Houthis Shiite rebels stop attacking Saudi Arabia and the Saudis, who back the country's internationally recognized government, limiting their military actions. But unfortunately, the last few days have seen "a new escalation," he said, adding, "We are doing everything we can for this escalation to be reversed, and everything we can to create the conditions for a true political dialogue to be re-established."

In Iraq, which has faced mass anti-government protests since Oct. 1 in which

at least 500 demonstrators have been killed, the secretary-general called for the human rights of protesters to be protected. The protesters have decried rampant government corruption, poor services and lack of employment and are demanding the overthrow of the political establishment, electoral reforms and snap elections.

Guterres said militias have sometimes been "the worst perpetrators of violations of human rights" and attacks against protesters. It's critical for the government to ensure that the army and policy regain the monopoly on the use of force to ensure the normal functioning of the state, he said.

He also said Iraq's unity must be preserved and "external interferences" must be avoided because divisions are deep and the "risks of the country imploding are high... (which) would have devastating consequences for the region."

On the decades-old conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the secretary-general said the U.S. peace plan unveiled last week doesn't comply with U.N. General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and international law. The resolutions support a two-state solution based on 1967 borders and call all Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal.

The secretary-general stressed that global problems "feed on each other." "As economies falter, poverty remains entrenched. As future prospects look bleak, populist and ethnic nationalist narratives gain appeal," he said. "As instability rises, investment dries up, and development cycles down. When armed conflicts persist, societies reach perilous tipping points. And as governance grows weak, terrorists get stronger, seizing on the vacuum." Guterres said that this year — as the United Nations marks its 75th anniversary — he will press "to break the vicious circles of suffering and conflict and push for a surge of diplomacy for peace." □

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U.K., France urge citizens out of China; Belgium sees 1st case

LONDON (AP) — Britain on Tuesday urged all of its citizens in China to leave the country because of the outbreak of a respiratory illness from a new virus, while Belgium became the latest nation to announce a confirmed case.

An updated advisory issued by the U.K. Foreign Office said that while commercial flights remained available from most of mainland China, travel restrictions introduced by the Chinese government to contain the epidemic meant "it may become harder to access departure options over the coming weeks."

"If you're in China and able to leave, you should do so," the advisory said.

France also issued an advisory, warning against any non-essential travel to China and suggesting that French citizens who were already there return home. More than 20,400 people have been infected with the virus in China and 425 have died. Two other people have died in the Philippines and Hong Kong and 20 other nations have reported cases.

Belgium, meanwhile, reported its first case of the coronavirus, found in one of the nine citizens who were repatriated from Wuhan over the weekend. The Belgian Health Ministry said the infected individual was in good health and didn't show any symptoms of the disease. The person was taken to a special hospital for further care while the others remained under observation.

Germany confirmed two

more cases of the virus: one an employee of an auto parts company that a Chinese colleague visited two weeks ago and the other in a child of an infected company employee who previously had another child test positive.

In all, Europe had 28 confirmed cases of the coronavirus as of Tuesday: Germany has 12; France six; Russia, Italy and the U.K. have two each and Finland, Sweden, Spain and Belgium have one each.

The European Union's medicines agency said it was taking action to "accelerate the development and availability" of medicines to treat and prevent the virus. The Amsterdam-based agency is responsible for evaluating, supervising and monitoring medicines in the 27-nation bloc.

It said in a statement that while there are currently no medicines authorized to detect, treat or prevent infections with the new virus it is "ready to support medicine developers with all available regulatory tools to advance and expedite the development of effective measures to fight and prevent the spread of this virus."

Italy could lose up to 4.5 billion euros (\$4.97 billion) in tourism revenue this year if coronavirus fears keep visitors away, leading polling agency Demoskopika said in a study released Tuesday. The amount represents around 5% of tourism-generated contribution to Italy's gross domestic product.

Fueling those fears, four



French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn, right, listens to German Health Minister Jens Spahn during a joint press conference, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 in Paris.

Associated Press

regional Italian governors from the anti-migrant League party formally asked the health ministry to require school-age children from China to undergo 14 days of observation before being allowed back to class.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte, however, demanded an end to such discriminatory reactions and the Italy's National Health Institute insisted that its precautionary measures for school-age children were sufficient.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the first of five military

transport aircraft assigned to airlift Russians left Wuhan on Tuesday night with 80 evacuees. Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova said earlier in the day that 132 Russians and 15 citizens of other ex-Soviet nations in all would be flown out of Wuhan and quarantined in southwestern Siberia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin urged Chinese authorities to work hard to halt the outbreak.

"I hope that our Chinese friends will overcome the difficult situation with honor. We all want results of the fight against the new virus

to be as efficient and quick as possible," Putin said Tuesday at a meeting with students and researchers.

Dr. David Heymann, who led the World Health Organization's response to the SARS outbreak, said it's too early to tell when the virus outbreak will peak but that it appears the disease is still on the increase. He said the exponential spike in China's caseload in recent days was partly attributable to the fact that Chinese officials expanded their search to include milder cases, not only people with pneumonia. □

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President: Turkey won't allow more ground to Syria in Idlib

By SUZAN FRASER

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) —

Turkey's president said Tuesday his country won't allow Syrian forces to gain additional territory in a northern Syrian province, Turkish media reported, a day after clashes between Turkish and Syrian forces killed soldiers on both sides.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's comments came as Syrian forces reached the western gate of the rebel stronghold of Saraqeb in Idlib province in the north, while the U.N. announced that more than half a million people have fled their homes since Dec. 1, because of the offensive. "At the moment, Syria is trying to gain territory by forcing the innocent and poor people toward our border," private NTV television quoted Erdogan as telling a group of journalists late Monday. "We won't give Syria the opportunity to gain territory."

Eight Turkish citizens were killed in an exchange of shelling with Syrian government forces in Idlib on Monday.

The assault on the Turkish troops came amid a Syrian government offensive that has been advancing since December into the coun-



Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu speaks during a meeting in Ankara, Turkey, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020.

Associated Press

try's last rebel stronghold, which spans Idlib province and parts of nearby Aleppo. Turkish troops are deployed in some of those rebel-held areas to monitor an earlier cease-fire that has since collapsed.

On Tuesday, Syrian government forces were advancing north under the cover of airstrikes, reaching areas held by insurgents for eight years. The bombardment forced more people to flee for safety in areas close to the Turkish border.

"Since the first of December, in just 2 months, more than 520,000 people have been displaced from their homes, the vast majority of them being women and

children," said Jens Laerke, spokesperson for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"There are no safe places in Idlib, bombs fall everywhere and anywhere."

Laerke said in the 10 days starting Jan. 20, the U.N. rights office verified at least 83 civilians, including 20 women and 33 children, were killed and dozens more wounded in airstrikes and ground-based attacks. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said in recent weeks Syrian troops have captured more than 60 towns, villages and hamlets. The captures happened as Syrian forces try

to open a highway linking the capital Damascus with the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest. Rebels have closed the highway in Idlib since 2012 and Saraqeb is the last major rebel-held town in their way.

On Monday, Turkish artillery targeted Syrian government forces in northern Idlib, responding to shelling that killed seven Turkish soldiers and a Turkish civilian. A Syrian war monitor said 13 Syrian troops were killed in the clash.

The deadly exchange increased tensions between the neighboring countries and threatened to drive a wedge between Russia and Turkey, which have sought to coordinate their actions in Syria.

Earlier on Tuesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Ankara and Moscow were trying to keep peace efforts for Syria alive. He renewed a call on Russia to "rein in" Syrian government forces and reiterated Turkey's determination to retaliate against any future Syrian attack on its troops.

"The Astana and Sochi peace processes have not been completely destroyed but have lately

started to suffer and to lose importance," Cavusoglu told reporters in Ankara, referring to Russian-Turkish peace initiatives that have also involved Iran.

He said Turkish officials were in contact with Russian counterparts "to keep the Astana and Sochi processes alive, to strengthen them, and to arrive at a political solution."

Cavusoglu, who held a telephone conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hours after the Turkey-Syria clash, added: "The regime's aggressiveness has to be stopped immediately. That was the message I gave Lavrov yesterday."

Cavusoglu dismissed claims by Russia that it cannot fully control the Syrian government and said the attack came despite a prior notification by Turkey of its troops' coordinates in Idlib. Russia insisted Turkey failed to notify the Russian military about troop movements overnight.

Funerals were being held across Turkey for the Turkish servicemen that were killed. The deaths marked one of the highest single-day tolls for Turkish troops in Syria. □



A Yemeni family waits in the departure hall at Sanaa International airport for a U.N. flight, Yemen, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

By AHMED AL-HAJ

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — A United Nations medical relief flight carrying patients from Yemen's rebel-held capital took off Monday, the first such aid flight in over three years.

Saudi Arabia controls Yemen's airspace and has prevented any flights from

leaving the capital, Sanaa, since August 2016.

Eight patients and their families were flown to Egypt and Jordan to receive "life-saving specialized care not available in Yemen," according to the U.N. health organization. Most were women and children with advanced cancer and

1st medical relief flight in 3 years departs Yemen's capital

brain tumors, while others needed organ transplants or reconstructive surgeries, the U.N. said.

Yemen's capital has been controlled by the Iran-backed Houthi rebel group since 2014. A coalition of Gulf Arab countries, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, began a military campaign the following year in support of Yemen's internationally recognized government.

The Houthis criticized the U.N. for the small number of patients airlifted out of Sanaa. The Houthi health ministry issued a statement Sunday saying the U.N. initially agreed to airlift 30 patients on a larger plane

belonging to Yemen's national airline, but instead used one of its own aircraft with limited space.

The Houthi health ministry said 32,000 people are in need of urgent medical and surgical interventions, such as kidney transplants and heart operations.

The U.N. health agency said the medical air-bridge operation is expected to continue with another three flights this week carrying a total of 30 patients. Later, a joint statement by three top U.N. officials in Yemen called the relief flights a "temporary solution to reduce the suffering of Yemeni people until a more sustainable solution is

reached in the near future." The Norwegian Refugee Council representative in Yemen, Mohammed Abdi, said in a statement Monday that the resumption of flights "comes too late for thousands of Yemenis who died waiting to leave the country for urgent life-saving care ... Many more are still waiting to get the healthcare they need."

More than 100,000 people have been killed in Yemen's conflict since 2015, according to data published last October by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Project. Millions of Yemenis live just a step away from famine and rely on food aid. □



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Former Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi is dead at age 95

By TOM ODULA

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Daniel arap Moi, a former schoolteacher who became Kenya's longest-serving president and led the East African nation through years of repression and economic turmoil fueled by runaway corruption, died Tuesday at age 95.

Moi succeeded Kenya's founding president, Jomo Kenyatta, in 1978 and ruled for 24 years. His death was announced by Kenyatta's son and current president, Uhuru Kenyatta, who called him a leader in the struggle for Kenyan independence and an ardent Pan-Africanist.

Moi died peacefully at a private hospital in Nairobi, said his son, Sen. Gideon Moi.

His critics called him a dictator for his authoritarian style, although Moi enjoyed strong support from many Kenyans and was seen as a unifying figure when he took over after the death of Jomo Kenyatta, who had led the country following its independence from Britain in 1963.

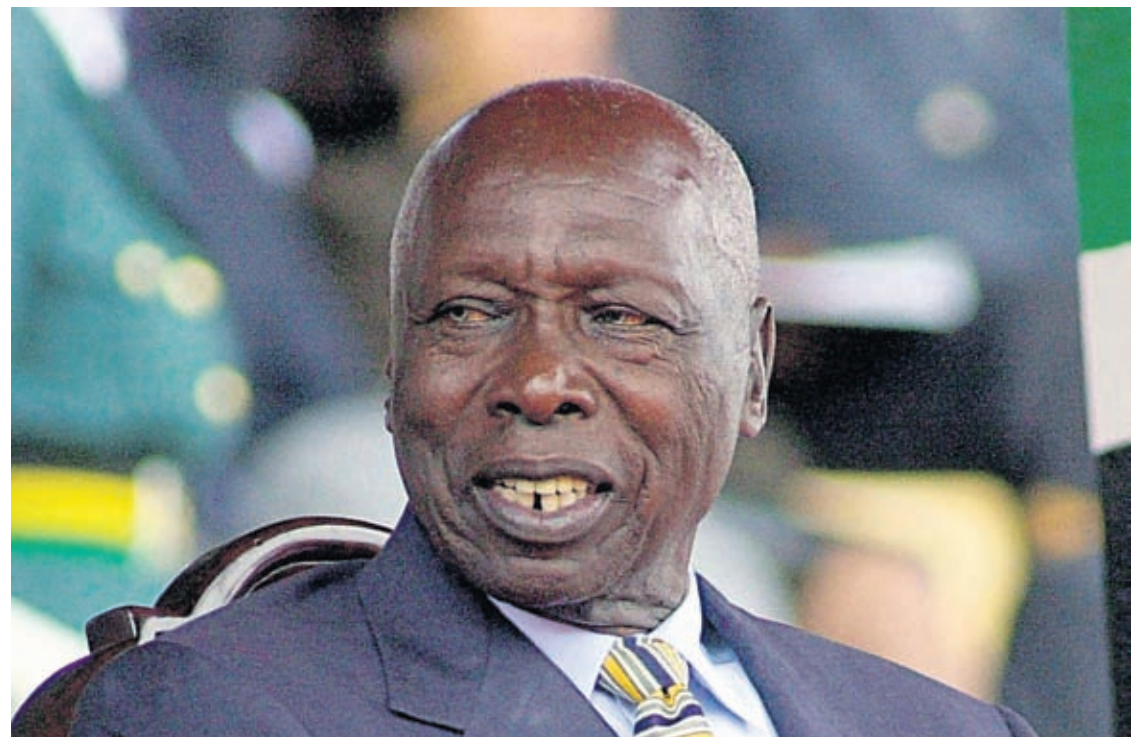
Some of Kenyatta's allies had tried to change the constitution to prevent then Vice President Moi from succeeding him. Moi was

so wary of threats at the time that he fled his Rift Valley home when he learned of Kenyatta's death, returning only after receiving assurances of his safety.

In 1982, Moi's government pushed through parliament a constitutional amendment that made Kenya effectively a one-party state. Later that year, the army quelled a coup attempt by opposition members and some air force officers. At least 159 people were killed.

Although Kenya was known for its stability, Moi's government became more repressive in dealing with dissent, according to a report by the government's Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission that assessed his rule. Political activists and others who dared oppose him were routinely detained, tortured and killed, the report said, including the death of a foreign affairs minister, Robert Ouko. "The judiciary became an accomplice in the perpetuation of violations, while parliament was transformed into a puppet controlled by the heavy hand of the executive," the report said.

Corruption, especially the illegal allocation of land,



In this October, 2002, file photo, shows former Kenya's President Daniel arap Moi. Moi, a former schoolteacher who became Kenya's longest-serving president and presided over years of repression and economic turmoil fueled by runaway corruption, has died. He was 95.

Associated Press

became institutionalized and economic power was centralized in the hands of a few, the report said.

In 1991, Moi yielded to public pressure at home and abroad for a multiparty state, including a demonstration where police killed more than 20 people.

Multiparty elections in 1992 and 1997 were marred by political and ethnic violence that critics blamed on the state.

By the time Moi left power in 2002, corruption had caused the contraction of Kenya's economy, the most developed in East Africa. Moi often blamed the West for bad publicity and the economic hardships that many Kenyans endured during his rule.

As with President Jomo Kenyatta, many government projects, buildings were named after Moi, and his face adorned the coun-

try's currency and coins. Kenyans voted for a new constitution that was implemented in 2010 and made provisions to bar personality cults.

Kenyans had a mixed reaction to Moi's death.

Commentator Patrick Gathara tweeted that Tuesday was a day to remember Moi's victims "as well as the thousands who stood against his brutal and murderous kleptocracy." □

Damage reported after 5.0 quake strikes near Puerto Rico

By DANICA COTO

Associated Press

SANTA ISABEL, Puerto Rico (AP) —

A magnitude 5.0 aftershock rattled southern Puerto Rico on Tuesday, causing some cracks but no reported injuries in a region that has been shaken by continuing quakes for more than a month.

Officials in the southwest coastal town of Guayanilla reported a cracked wall and arch near a municip-

pal pool that had already been closed to the public. It also prompted re-inspections of homes, schools and other buildings.

"The fear is that that they've once again been affected," Guayanilla spokesman Danny González told The Associated Press. "It was a strong one."

The 10:45 a.m. (1445 GMT) quake struck 9 miles (15 kilometers) south-southeast of Guánica at a shallow

depth of 4 miles (7 kilometers), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It was felt across the island.

Víctor Huérfano, director of Puerto Rico's Seismic Network, told the AP that the quake is part of a string of tremors that have followed a 6.4 earthquake that hit Jan. 7, killing one person and damaging or destroying hundreds of homes and schools.

The new quake re-ener-

gized the area, leading to 10 aftershocks in the hour that followed, he said.

"This is going to continue, and it's going to continue for some time," Huérfano warned.

Some 4,000 people remain in shelters in Puerto Rico's southern region, and officials expected that number to rise with the latest quake.

Authorities have noted that the majority of those shel-

tered are simply scared to return home but have reported no damage in their house.

Guánica Mayor Santos Seda told the AP that while no damage was reported in his town, he worried about the emotional toll the tremors are having on people.

"It's a setback to progress we've made emotionally," he said of the latest quake. □



Supporters of presidential candidate Carlos Mesa rally outside the Supreme Electoral Tribunal after he was registered as a candidate in La Paz, Bolivia, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

Ex-leader's party faces divided challengers in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — The party of ousted President Evo Morales faced a fractured opposition as Bolivia began campaigns Tuesday for May 3 elections to replace the leftist leader, but early polls indicate it may not have enough support to win outright and avoid a runoff.

Eight parties registered for the upcoming special general election by the midnight Monday deadline, most of them hoping to capitalize on the protest movement that forced the nation's first indigenous president to resign in November. That followed massive demonstrations over alleged vote-rigging in last year's balloting.

The Electoral Tribunal still must certify whether the candidates meet requirements — with the big question being whether Morales, barred by law from seeking the presidency, will be allowed to run for Senate.

Candidates are supposed to be residents of Bolivia, but Morales is living in exile in Argentina and facing charges connected to last October's allegedly fraudulent election, which he claimed had reelected him to a fourth term in office. The country remains bitterly

divided following the often-violent tumult that erupted before and after Morales was pushed to resign. Jean Arnault, envoy of the U.N. secretary-general, warned against "exacerbated polarization" and called on all sides to work for an election "without abuses, intimidation or discrimination." Morales's Movement Toward Socialism party, which currently holds a majority in congress, is strongest among indigenous, rural and working class urban regions. But in an apparent move to broaden its appeal, it nominated a London-educated technocrat, Luis Arce, as its presidential candidate.

"Morales is reaching out to the middle class from which he had grown apart," said analyst Carlos Borth, a former congressman. "That explains having picked Arce and not an indigenous person."

The middle classes and conservative sectors played a central role in the protests that led police and military leaders to urge Morales to resign after 14 years in power, during which he was accused of increasingly authoritarian behavior. The other contenders include centrist former President Carlos Mesa, who finished

second in the October vote, though many of his former supporters have shifted to more conservative candidates.

Those include interim President Jeanine Áñez, whose government has worked to overturn many of Morales' policies and prosecute his allies, as well as regional civic leader Luis Fernando Camacho, a major leader of protests in the eastern economic center of Santa Cruz.

Both have appealed to a growing conservative religious bloc of votes, as has Korean-born evangelical pastor and physician Chi Hyung Chung, who is running again after receiving about 9 percent of the vote in October.

Áñez had been a second-tier political figure as a senator before the resignation of several Morales allies who outranked her put her in line to claim the presidency.

A mid-January poll by the Mercados y Encuestas consulting firm showed Arce supported by 26%, Mesa and Camacho with 17% and Áñez with 12%. The poll, which reported a margin of error of about 3.5 percentage points, was carried out before Áñez confirmed she was running. □



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro stands inside the Supreme Court in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020. Maduro is at the court to give his annual presidential address.

Associated Press

Venezuela blocks entry of human rights investigators

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— An international human rights commission criticized the government of President Nicolás Maduro on Tuesday for blocking its members from boarding a plane for Venezuela, where they planned to investigate alleged abuses. Paulo Abrão, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, said the delegation will press ahead with its work, instead meeting victims and civil rights groups on the Colombian border with Venezuela.

"This attitude demonstrates the government's fear of exposing itself to international scrutiny and an attempt to hide abuses," Abrão told The Associated Press by telephone from Panama City. The rejection had been expected in large part because the commission had been invited by the country's congress. The legislature and Maduro mutually consider one another illegitimate.

The three members of the group posted a picture on Twitter holding their boarding passes at the airport gate in Panama. They said Maduro's government told the Panama-based Copa Airlines not to allow them on the flight to Caracas. Venezuela's opposition-led National Assembly had invited the group, which is a branch of the Organization

of American States, the Washington-based body representing more than 30 nations in the Western Hemisphere, whose leaders have been among the fiercest critics of Maduro.

Maduro's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza tweeted Friday that they would be blocked. "Venezuela has not invited or accepted a delegation visit from the IACHR," Arreaza said, adding that the visit "is not authorized." Maduro's government in 2017 started a two-year process to leave the OAS, saying that it is a pawn of the United States, which is also a member.

The OAS itself has joined the U.S. and more than 50 other nations in withdrawing recognition of Maduro on grounds his reelection in 2018 was illegitimate. It recognized congressional leader Juan Guaidó as acting president.

Maduro, however, controls all the mechanisms of government, including the military and courts, and he recognizes an alternative version of the National Assembly led by a minority of lawmakers allied with him. The delegation had planned to make a five-day visit inside Venezuela. Abrão said that instead, the investigators will talk with anyone who wants to meet them in the Colombian border town of Cucuta. □

LOCAL



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Let us start by explaining why this is a stand-out spa. It is all about having choices. Everyone is different and therefore taste is a personal thing. Okeanos Spa gives you the option between indulging in their indoor spa with a wide variation of treatments and a view to kill at the marine's bay from the relax lounge or Hold your breath: take a boat shuttle to Renaissance Island, a 40-acre private tropical retreat with white sand beaches and crystal clear waters where the Spa Cove opens its massage heaven to you.

Zugheila Lindeborg, Local Marketing Manager: "We are located at the first floor of the Renaissance Resort & Casino and offer indoor and outdoor treatments. The outdoor treatments take place at the Renaissance's private island. Both spas are accessible for resort guests and non-resort guests. Both spas are adults only." She explains that body massages are offered at both locations while the indoor spa also has manicure, pedicure, facials and body wraps for men and women on the menu. "We do couples treatments, bachelorette parties and groups. The spas are open Monday to Sunday from 8am to 8 pm."



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course the wide variety of treatments we do here."

Okeanos Spa has Pregnant Specials, Mothers & Daughters treatments, Bridals arrangements and they also have a loyalty card granting you an incentive when full. "Surprise your loved one with a special Valentine Deal we have on now, check it out on our Facebook!" You see, at Okeanos you can get relaxed and pimped from head to toe! ☐

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Impress for success

By Cdr. Bud Slabbaert

ST. MAARTEN — Customers are opinion multipliers, both in a positive and a negative sense. They pass on positive and negative perceptions to others by word of mouth. When negative, it can be destructive. When positive, it is precious constructive and the lowest-cost manner of promoting a service or business. Customers want to be impressed. After all, that is what they are paying for. Acquiring new customers is more difficult and costly than keeping existing ones. Losing an existing customer is twice as expensive: for one, it is a loss for the business, and secondly, a replacement customer needs to be found which may take a lot of marketing effort.

Customer orientation requires acting the way the customer likes it and wants it! It is not only the offered service that determines success; equally important is the way that customers are treated.



Customer friendliness says, "We are happy that you are a customer!" Keep an ideal customer experience in mind and then try to offer that ideal experience. Exceed your customers' expectations and make them feel great.

If scientists ever find out where the center of the universe is, some people will be disappointed that they're not it. You may not

want to call your business 'Center-of-the-Universe' either. But, how about placing a sign at the entrance to remind your customers:

'Caution! By entering this facility, you are becoming the center of our attention'

Salvador Domingo Felipe Jacinto Dalí i Domènech, Marquis of Dalí de Púbol was a Spanish Surrealist artist. He granted the railway

station of the city Perpignan in France an entry in the history of art when he named it the 'Center of the Universe' after having experienced there, in his words, "a sort of cosmic ecstasy, stronger than all those I had before. I experienced a precise vision of the construction of the universe." Quick question: what title are you granting your airport, hotel or restaurant?

There is nothing wrong with giving customers the feeling that they are the center of the universe, without going as far as Dalí's cosmic ecstasy. Anyway, I will just have to give you two quotes of this world famous eccentric artist who claimed that he is not strange, but that he is just not normal. Quote one: "The thermometer of success is merely the jealousy of the malcontents," which fits nicely in this article. The second one is something to think about: "Every morning when I wake up, I experience an exquisite joy—the joy of being Salvador Dalí—and I ask myself in rapture: What wonderful things is this Salvador Dalí going to accomplish today?"

The personal performance of any individual involved in a business, from the owner or manager to the person who cleans the toilet, contributes to the combined image of the establishment. Anyone who has the slightest contact with a customer is part of the image, even if the clean-

ing person only says 'good morning' with a smile when the customer walks by.

All providers in a chain of services at a tourism destination from arrival to departure contribute to the total image of the destination: airport, taxi, hotel, restaurant, merchants and yes even the security officer at entrance of the bank. The airport at the beginning or the end of a flight is part of the image of an airline or the tour operator who made the arrangements. You may say: "Why are you telling us that? We know that already".

Aunt Emma already knew it a century ago. She did not have any education or training for it. Aunt Emma? 'Tante Emma Laden' is the German equivalent of the mom-and-pop store. Can you imagine Aunt Emma running the little general store in her village, years ago? Pure nostalgia! She knew all her customers by name. She could carry on pleasant chit-chat. She gave the little kids a piece of candy. She knew exactly about the shopping habits of her customers and tried to offer the right range of products. She could even give a cooking recipe or advice on how to remove fat stains from a shirt. Shopping at Tante Emma's store always gave shoppers a good feeling, even if the prices were higher than at the supermarket. Tante Emma exercised customer relations management without having software or a computer for it.

Human contact on offer is special; time to listen, the exchange of whole sentences. The persons who represent a business or operation can sell a bit of their own personality along with the product and service. It often helps to make the customer experience unique. It could add a bit of authenticity of the culture of a destination. Isn't that what is sometimes missing from customer relations that only follow a formal training protocol? □



About the author.

Cdr. Bud Slabbaert is the Chairman and Coordinator of the Caribbean Aviation Meetup, an annual results and solution oriented conference for stakeholders of 'airlift' in the Caribbean which will be June 16-18 on St. Maarten. Mr. Slabbaert's background is accentuated by aviation business development, strategic communication, and journalism.

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NOORD — Tierra del Sol Resort & Golf is proud to invite you to Aruba's first "Premium Casual" dining experience at the newly designed restaurant at Tierra del Sol. The spectacular new design showcases a fashionable color scheme with modern furniture, an expanded outdoor terrace, and a bar overlooking Aruba's beautiful Caribbean Sea and their Robert Trent Jones II golf course.

Tierra del Sol's all-day menu offers a wide variety of wonderfully prepared food at family friendly prices. Whether you wish to enjoy a few of their signature dishes or sample the new menu, you're sure to have a wonderful dining experience at **The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol**. Their hours of operation are from 10:00am – 4:00pm on Mondays, 10:00am – 10:00pm Tuesday thru Saturday and 11:00am – 3:00pm for their ever-popular gourmet tasting Sunday Brunch.

And for the ultimate drink special lovers, happy hour will take you to a whole new level of ambiance from 6:00pm – 7:00pm from Tuesday thru Saturday. Reservations can be made on their dining page, via phone or via email. ☐

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They love the multilingual Arubans

EAGLE BEACH — Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Robert & Maria Kerekes** who have been visiting Aruba for over 25 years consecutively.

Couple Kerekes stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and

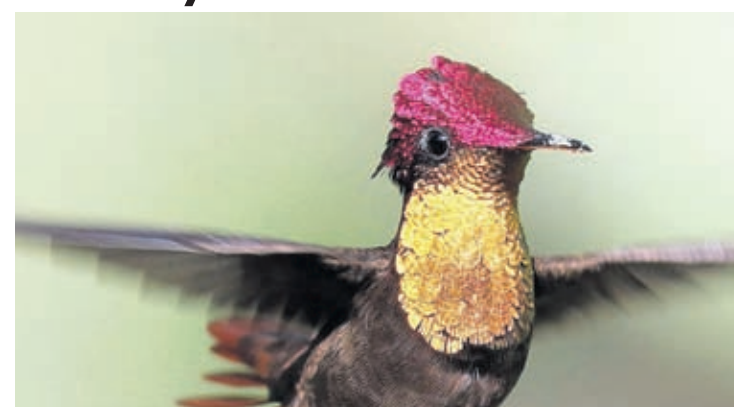


picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became like family to them. The lovely couple also stated that they love the fact that Arubans speak 4 languages and we take pride into this.

Richardson together with

the representatives of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honorees, handed over some additional presents, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Beauty in Aruba



ORANJESTAD — It's carnival season in Aruba! Carnival is a national celebration in Aruba. The costumes are masterpieces. And when in search for inspiration, our artists often turn to nature.

Aruba's bird wildlife can take artistic fantasies to another level. Some are so exceptionally beautiful that Aruba's Indians painted long before Columbus was ever born.

In search of inspiration?

Look no further. Aruba's Dornasol is here to save the day. Dornasol means 'to adorn the sun'.

A Ruby Topaz Hummingbird displaying its beauty for our 'Carnavalistas'!

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Aruba's to protect.
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Source: Aruba Birdlife Conservation



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Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



Wednesday 05

Salsa Night at Bugaloe

- Join our weekly FREE Salsa workshop! Every Wednesday we will show you the ins and outs of Latin dancing. The whole night Salsa music will be played to set the mood. Whether you want to dance the night away or just relax and enjoy the tunes of salsa music, it's a perfect night out.
- From 8:30pm-9:30pm
- Bugaloe
- Facebook: Bugaloe

Thursday 06

Drawings Exhibition

- Ateliers' 89 Academy would like to invite you to the exhibition of drawings 'No pictures please' under the guidance of Dutch artist Marieke Zwart. At the same time admire the new collection by this artist named 'Import Series'. Music by DJ. Adriano Nanof. Entrance Free
- 8pm-11pm
- Ateliers' 89, Dominicanessenstraat 34, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Ateliers' 89



Friday 07

Eagle Aruba Carnival Queen Election

- Join us for a night of beauty, music, creativity and fun at our Carnival Queen Election. Come and let's have fun during this bacchanal with our queens and their beautiful costumes! Performance by local band N'Fuzion!!
- From 6pm-7pm
- Eagle Aruba, Casino Parkinglot
- Facebook: Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino

Saturday 08

5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar and Grill

- Join us for another fight night. Jones vs. Reyes will be shown on all 12 screens. First come, first serve seating. Starting already from noon with specialty cocktails, Beef Taco's, Nachos and Beer Bucket special. See you at the coolest bar & grill in town!.
- From 12pm
- 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar and Grill, Renaissance Market
- Facebook: 5 o'Clock Somewhere Bar and Grill



Sunday 09

Grand Children's Parade San Nicolas 2020

- Head up to San Nicolas for a fun day in the sun and enjoy the Children's Carnival parade. Dance to the joyful carnival music and get attached to the children's energy and enthusiasm.
- 2pm-6pm
- Starts at Joe Laveist Sportpark
- Facebook: SMAC

Monday 10

Joy of Aruba

- Joy of Aruba is performed at the Divi Divi Hotel by the Popcorn Dancers, one of Aruba's best Youth Dance Group. The performers will be presenting the most popular folkloric & modern music and dance of the island of Aruba. The Popcorn Dancers are determined to bring pleasure for your eyes, ears, heart & soul.
- 8:30pm-9:30pm
- Divi Tamarijn
- Facebook: Dream, Dare, Do - Aruba and Popcorn Club & Dancers Aruba

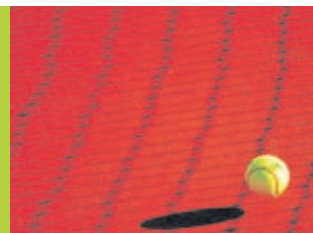


Tuesday 11

Taco Tuesday's

- Every Tuesday Lola is slinging crazy specials your way! Try this week's Carnita special
- 5pm-1am
- Next to Craft bar at Palm Beach
- Facebook: Lola Taqueria

SPORTS



WADA: U.S. bill could 'shatter the anti-doping system'

By EDDIE PELLIS
AP National Writer

The World Anti-Doping Agency sent a letter to U.S. Senators explaining how a bill designed to deter drug cheats in international sports would, instead, "have the unintended consequences of shattering the anti-doping system" if it is passed without changes. The document, obtained by The Associated Press, was sent this week at the request of a Senate committee that is holding a hearing Wednesday in which it will hear testimony about the Rodchenkov Act.

The House passed the bill last year, and WADA has hired a lobbying firm to engage Congress for changes in the legislation triggered by a Russia cheating scheme that has shaken the global Olympic movement for the past five years.

WADA director general Olivier Niggli told AP that "WADA favors governments using their legislative powers to protect clean athletes in the fight against doping and this Act is no exception."

The six-page WADA letter does, in fact, say the agency "supports the overall objectives of the legislation." The letter also goes into extensive detail about provisions it says would create a "chaotic World Anti-Doping system with no legal predictability."

HEAT WAVE

Butler scores 38, Heat roll past 76ers 137-106



Continued on Page 23

Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler reacts after scoring during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Miami.

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Golf rulers says increased distance must be slowed

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Golfers at all levels keep hitting the ball farther, and the game's governing bodies plan to do something about it by going after the one area they can control — equipment.

The USGA and the R&A on Tuesday released their "Distance Insights Project," which revealed a steady increase in distance for more than 100 years — with average gains of about 30 yards by PGA Tour players in the last 25 years — and golf courses that keep expanding.

"We believe this continuing cycle of courses increasing in length is a cycle we want to break," said Mike Davis, chief executive of the USGA.

The report attributes the distance gains to modern clubs and golf balls, improved athleticism and training, swing techniques geared toward hitting it longer and course conditions with tightly mowed fairways that allow for extra roll.

But the report made clear the governing bodies are targeting equipment as it seeks solutions.

"We also recognize that this assessment should not focus on player-related factors that contribute to increased distance, such as improved athleticism and swing techniques, for the desire to improve is integral to the game and is to be encouraged," the report summary said. "Accordingly, we expect the main topic for research and assessment to be potential

changes in the equipment rules."

Among the possibilities is using specific golf balls or clubs that result in players not hitting it as far.

The report said equipment committees for the USGA and R&A would look into the option of a local rule "that would specify use of clubs and/or balls intended to result in shorter hitting distances."

That suggests the possibility of tour players using different equipment than recreational players under the guise of a local rule, though the report said any golfer can choose to play with equipment that goes shorter.

"We're still committed to a single set of rules," said Thomas Pagel, the USGA's senior managing director of governance.

The governing bodies also plan to review equipment testing standards to make sure they are effective in limiting distance.

"The intended purpose of this review is to consider whether any existing specifications should be adjusted or any new specifications should be created to help mitigate the continuing distance increases," the report said. "It is not currently intended to consider revising the overall specifications in a way that would produce substantial reductions in hitting distances at all levels of the game."

Less clear is when any changes can be expected. The USGA and R&A said they will publish a specific set of research topics within 45 days. After that, they



Brooks Koepka from the U.S. hits the ball from the 17th tee during the third round of the Saudi International at Royal Greens Golf and Country Club, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in Red Sea resort of King Abdullah Economic City, Saudi Arabia.

Associated Press

will gather feedback that could take up to a year, and when comments and research are finished, manufacturers would receive notice of any changes. That would begin a new round of feedback. Even so, it was the strongest signal yet that the two groups that set the rules worldwide want to rein in distance.

The USGA governs the U.S. and Mexico. The R&A governs the rest of the world. They published a "Joint Statement of Principles" in 2002 that said "any further significant increases in hitting distances at the highest level are undesirable."

"Golf is a game of skill, a broad range of skills, and no one skill should dominate," R&A chief executive Martin Slumbers said from St. Andrews.

Officials have become concerned in recent years over a style known as "bomb and gouge," meaning distance is more valuable than accuracy. Some players no longer worry if a big tee shot lands in the rough because they have shorter distances to the green, often with a wedge in hand.

Davis said the two groups have spent two years collecting and analyzing data without contemplating

how to fix any problems.

"We are not in the solution phase," he said.

Along with how golf is played at an elite level, the USGA and R&A said they are concerned over distance increases because of bigger golf course properties that require more water, and how that raises the cost of playing.

"Our views have evolved as events have unfolded and new information has become available, just as they may evolve in the future, and we believe that it is never too late to do the right thing for the future of the game," the report said. □

Butler scores 38 vs former team, Heat rout 76ers 137-106

By The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 38 points against his former team before getting the fourth quarter off, and the Miami Heat ran away in the second half to beat the Philadelphia 76ers 137-106 on Monday night.

Goran Dragic scored 24 points for Miami, Duncan Robinson had 19 and All-Star Bam Adebayo finished with 18 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the Heat. Derrick Jones Jr. added 15 points for Miami, which set a season high for points and victory margin. For Philadelphia, it was more of the same. The team with an NBA-best 22-2 home record lost for the 10th time in its last 12 road games. Joel Embiid led the 76ers with 29 points and 12 rebounds, and Ben Simmons had 16 points.

CLIPPERS 108, SPURS 105

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kawhi Leonard scored 22 points, Paul George added 19 and the Clippers rallied in the fourth quarter.

Leonard's one-handed dunk gave the Clippers a two-point lead with 1:35 remaining after they trailed by 15 in the first half. George's jumper with 13 seconds left made it 106-102.

Patty Mills hit a 3-pointer with two seconds left to draw the Spurs within one. Lou Williams got fouled and made both for the Clippers. Mills' half-court heave at the buzzer came up short. LaMarcus Aldridge scored 27 points for the Spurs.

CELTICS 123, HAWKS 115

ATLANTA (AP) — Jayson Tatum scored 28 points and Grant Williams drove for a key basket in the final minute, leading Boston over Atlanta for its fourth straight victory.

With ailing Kemba Walker watching from the bench, Gordon Hayward scored 24 points and Jaylen Brown chipped in with 21 for the Celtics.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 34 points, his 25th game with at least 30 this season. Kevin Huerter had 23 points, including five 3-pointers, and John Collins notched his fourth straight



Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) drives to the basket as Philadelphia 76ers guard Ben Simmons (25) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Miami. Associated Press

double-double with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

MAVERICKS 112, PACERS 103

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Kristaps Porzingis had 38 points and 12 rebounds to lead Dallas past Indiana.

Porzingis shot 6 of 13 on 3-pointers and made all 12 of his free throws. Tim Hardaway Jr. contributed 25 points for the Mavericks, who played without injured All-Star starter Luka Doncic (sprained ankle) for the third straight game. Domantas Sabonis led the Pacers with 26 points on 9-of-12 shooting to go with 12 rebounds and nine assists. Malcolm Brogdon added 14 points.

NETS 119, SUNS 97

NEW YORK (AP) — Caris LeVert equaled a career high with 29 points in his first start in nearly three months, helping Brooklyn overcome the absence of Kyrie Irving to beat Phoenix.

LeVert snapped out of a slump on offense and played a key role in a strong

defensive effort that limited Suns star Devin Booker to 11 points on 3-for-15 shooting. Joe Harris added 16 points and Taurean Prince had 11 of his 15 in the decisive third quarter for the Nets, who will be without Irving at least for this week after he sprained his right knee Saturday at Washington.

Deandre Ayton had 25 points and 17 rebounds for the Suns, who lost their third straight.

WARRIORS 125, WIZARDS 117

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alec Burks scored 30 points, Glenn Robinson III added 22 and Golden State overcame another big performance by Bradley Beal to beat Washington.

It was the second straight win for the NBA-worst Warriors (12-39), with both coming on the road. They lost 15 of their previous 17.

Beal led the Wizards with 43 points in his seventh straight game with at least 30, the third-longest streak in team history. Rui Hachimura

scored 11 points after missing 23 games with a groin injury. Beal went 15 for 30 from the field while passing the injured John Wall for third on Washington's career scoring list.

Draymond Green had 12 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for Golden State.

GRIZZLIES 96, PISTONS 82

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 17 rebounds, Dillon Brooks added 15 points and Memphis defeated Detroit to sweep the season series.

Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 14 points and Tyus Jones added 13. Valanciunas also had four of a season-high 12 blocks for the Grizzlies as they held the Pistons to 34.7% shooting. Andre Drummond led the Pistons with 25 points and 18 rebounds. Reggie Jackson shot 1 of 16 from the field, and Sekou Doumbouya was 2 for 15.

Detroit played without leading scorer Derrick Rose

and Markieff Morris.

MAGIC 112, HORNETS 100

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Nikola Vucevic scored 22 points, Aaron Gordon had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Orlando snapped a five-game skid with a win over Charlotte.

Evan Fournier added 17 points and Markelle Fultz had 12 points and 14 assists for the Magic, who won for the first time since beating the Hornets by 23 in Charlotte on Jan. 20.

Terry Rozier scored 18 points to lead the struggling Hornets, who have lost 11 of 12.

KNICKS 139, CAVALIERS 134, OT

CLEVELAND (AP) — Marcus Morris Sr. scored 26 points, including the go-ahead jumper with a minute left in overtime, and New York outlasted Cleveland.

Morris, who missed the morning shoot-around because of an illness, added another jumper and two free throws to help put the game away.

Kevin Love had 33 points and 13 rebounds in possibly his final home game with Cleveland. But the Cavaliers lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

Love has been the subject of trade speculation ahead of Thursday's deadline.

Knicks guard Elfrid Payton, returning from a one-game suspension, had his first triple-double of the season with 17 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds.

KINGS 113, TIMBERWOLVES 109

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — De'Aaron Fox scored 31 points, Bogdan Bogdanovic made five free throws in the final 69 seconds and Sacramento held off a late run to hand Minnesota its 12th consecutive loss.

Bogdanovic scored 23 points, Buddy Hield added 16 and Harrison Barnes had 14 points and seven assists for the Kings.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points, 10 rebounds and six assists to lead six Timberwolves players in double figures.

Minnesota had a chance to tie it in the final seconds, but Andrew Wiggins missed a rushed 3-pointer. □



Seattle Mariners pitcher Marco Gonzales speaks at a baseball news conference Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, in Seattle.

Associated Press

LHP Gonzales gets security, leadership role in deal with M's

SEATTLE (AP) — When Marco Gonzales was first brought to Seattle during the 2017 season, there were limitations and benchmarks placed on his pitching. Sometimes he was pulled before facing the order a third time. Or maybe his arm was monitored closely because of previous injuries. Seattle had scouted out Gonzales' potential, but the Mariners had to see the left-hander up close to realize he could be a leader in their rotation. "He's a hardcore competitor. That's what he does," Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said. "I think what you saw with our early development with Marco in the big leagues is indicative of, we don't believe player development is

over in the big leagues and Marco's minor league development was abbreviate because of a very quick assent to the big leagues and then an injury. "We had to make sure we got him through those gates so to speak." Seattle signed the 27-year-old to a \$30 million, four-year deal Tuesday that will keep him in their rotation through at least 2024. The deal also has a fifth-year option that could bring the total value to \$45 million. It sets up Gonzales to be a mentor and leader on a team at the lowpoint of a rebuild. "You never expect to be thrown into a situation like that (at) 26, 27. But I felt like I've always been that type of player," Gonzales said. □



New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter speaks during the Baseball Hall of Fame press conference, Wednesday Jan. 22, 2020, in New York. Jeter and Colorado Rockies outfielder Larry Walker will both join the 2020 Hall of Fame class.

Associated Press

Hall of Fame voter who snubbed Derek Jeter keeps ballot private

NEW YORK (AP) — The lone baseball writer who did not vote for Derek Jeter for the Hall of Fame chose to keep his or her ballot private. The Baseball Writers' Association of America released the ballots of 315 Hall voters on Tuesday, and all public ballots included the longtime New York Yankees captain. Jeter was on 396 of 397 ballots in voting announced Jan. 21, elected along with slugger Larry Walker. They will be inducted into the

Hall at Cooperstown on July 26 along with catcher Ted Simmons and late players' association head Marvin Miller, who were elected by the modern era committee in November. Mariano Rivera, Jeter's Yankees teammate for five World Series titles, became the first unanimous pick last year when he was on all 425 ballots. The BBWAA has listed public ballots since 2012. The BBWAA voted all Hall ballots should be made public

but was overruled by the Hall's board of directors, which instead included an option for each voter to decide whether to release his or her ballot two weeks after the voting announcement. The percentage of public ballots released by the BBWAA was about the same this year (79.3%) as last (79.5%). Ryan Thibodaux's vote tracker lists 332 ballots (83.6%), including six that are anonymous, and all included Jeter. □

Phillies to retire Halladay's 34 on perfect game anniversary

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies will retire the late Hall of Fame pitcher Roy Halladay's No. 34 this season. The Phillies will pay tribute to Halladay on May 29, 2020, the 10th anniversary of his perfect game against the Marlins. It was the 20th perfect game in MLB history. Halladay was 40 when he was killed in a plane crash

in November 2017. Halladay went 203-105 with a 3.38 ERA and 2,117 strikeouts over his career with Toronto and Philadelphia. He was 3-2 with a 2.37 ERA in five postseason starts, all with the Phillies. He joined Don Larsen (1956) of the New York Yankees as the only pitchers to throw a no-hitter in the postseason. Halladay opened the

2010 NL Division Series with one against the Cincinnati Reds in his first career playoff start. He spent his last four seasons in Philadelphia (2010-13) after 12 seasons with the Blue Jays (1998-2009). Halladay won Cy Young Awards in 2003 with the Blue Jays and in 2010 with the Phillies. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2019. □



In this May 29, 2010, file photo, Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Halladay throws a pitch in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Florida Marlins in Miami.

Associated Press

Pysyk scores 3 times as Panthers beat Maple Leafs 5-3

TORONTO (AP) — Mark Pysyk scored three times in his first career hat trick, and the Florida Panthers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-3 on Monday night.

Mike Hoffman had a goal and an assist for Florida, which trailed 3-1 early in the third period. Mike Matheson had three assists, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 31 saves in the Panthers' seventh win in eight games. Frederik Andersen started for Toronto and stopped seven of eight shots, but was forced into concussion protocol after getting bumped into at least three times — with the worst coming on a collision with Panthers center Frank Vatrano. Coach Sheldon Keefe said his No. 1 goalie passed concussion protocol, but he didn't know if he would practice Tuesday before the Leafs fly to New York for



Florida Panthers defenseman Mark Pysyk (13) scores an empty net goal, his third of the game, as Toronto Maple Leafs right wing Mitch Marner (16) looks on during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020 in Toronto.

Associated Press

a meeting with the Rangers on Wednesday. Auston Matthews, William Nylander and John Tavares

scored for Toronto, which had won three in a row. Mitch Marner had two assists.

"I don't think the result is in any way indicative of the way the game went," Keefe said. "When you talk about the maturity of our team, a lot of the narrative is how we can't defend. That's the best defensive game we've played the entire season. I don't know if we gave up over four scoring chances at even-strength.

"(We) just got distracted by the 3-1 goal and perhaps that's an area we'd like to have back and do better job of. There's a lot of things

to like about what we did." Matthews' 37th goal of the season made it 3-1 38 seconds into the third. But Pysyk and Huberdeau scored 58 seconds apart, tying it at 3 at 3:18.

Hoffman put the Panthers ahead to stay when he banked his 19th off Leafs defenseman Cody Ceci and through Hutchinson's pads at 10:30.

"It's just one of those series of unfortunate events that ends up in the back of your net," Hutchinson said.

Florida, which beat Toronto 8-4 in Sunrise on Jan. 12, weathered a late surge by the Maple Leafs before Pysyk completed his hat trick with an empty-netter.

"I got lucky at the end there," Pysyk said. "Break-away, open net. I thought I was going to miss it. ... I was a little nervous."

The Panthers were without Aleksander Barkov, who was sidelined by a lower-body injury. The star center got hurt during Saturday's 4-0 loss at Montreal in Florida's first game back after the All-Star break and bye week.

Leafs defenseman Travis Dermott returned to the lineup after missing Saturday's 2-1 overtime win against Ottawa with an illness, while winger Kasper Kapanen was also back following a one-game banishment to the press box for being late to Friday's practice. □

Canada beats U.S. in OT, pulls within 2-1 in Rivalry Series

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Victoria Bach scored 3:22 into overtime to lift Canada over the United States on Monday night in the third game of the Rivalry Series.

Bach's backhand shot off a 2-on-1 pass from Blayne Turnbull beat goalie Nicole Hensley, who faced a Canadian onslaught in the extra frame.

The Canada-U.S. Rivalry Series was at full intensity. Canada's Brigitte Lacquette tied it for Canada with just under seven minutes left in the third period with a wrist shot from just inside the blue line during an intense scramble for the puck.

Canada had a two-player power-play advantage for more than a minute and Lacquette's goal came with the Americans down one player but facing fierce pressure from the Canadians, who held possession for much of the penalties.

The teams traded goals in the second, with Bri-

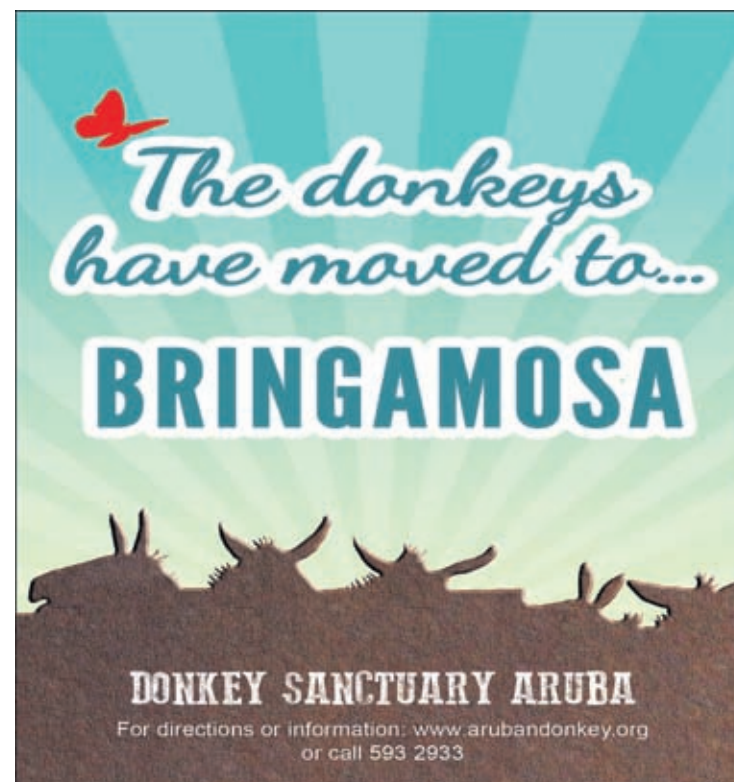


Canada celebrates a goal to tie the game against the USA during the third period of the Rivalry Series hockey game at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre in Victoria, British Columbia, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

anne Jenner scoring short-handed for Canada early in the period. Jenner had a clear breakaway and scored when she bobbled the puck and it squeezed through Hensley's pads. Hilary Knight scored on the power play for the Americans with a blast from the right face-off circle the 12:01. It was her 200th career point with the U.S. team.

This was coach Troy Ryan's first game behind the bench after replacing former coach Perry Pearn last month. The Americans won the first two games last December in Hartford, Connecticut and Moncton, New Brunswick. The teams play next in Vancouver on Wednesday, and the series wraps up Saturday in Anaheim, California. □



NFL 101: What's ahead as next century of pro football begins

By **BARRY WILNER**

MIAMI (AP) — The NFL's centennial season concluded with a championship a half-century in the making.

Now that the Kansas City Chiefs have ended that 50-year drought and own their second NFL championship, the focus will turn mostly elsewhere in what could be a very busy offseason. The NFL really never goes away, so even as their fans will chant and do the Tomahawk Chop when the Chiefs have their celebratory parade, questions will arise on all fronts.

Here are some things to contemplate:

QB CAROUSEL

It starts — some might say it ends — with Tom Brady. For the first time in his six-ring career, the 42-year-old Brady is on the market. Maybe the fact the Patriots went 4-4 in the second half of the schedule, blew a bye in the AFC playoffs with a last-week loss at home to the lowly Dolphins and then went out, also at home, to Tennessee in a wild-card game made New England think twice about spending multimillions on a middle-aged man whose skills just might be declining.

While it still seems likely Pa-

triotics owner Robert Kraft will pony up the bucks — say a two-year deal in which the second season can be voided without too much cost to the team — it's fun to think of other landing spots for pro football's most successful quarterback.

Try the Chargers if they are looking to make, uh, a charge into the new stadium they will share with the Rams. Brady would be an intriguing addition down the road from Hollywood, particularly if Philip Rivers is done with the Bolts.

Or the Raiders to make a splash in Sin City, though Derek Carr isn't exactly headed out the door.

Though wouldn't Brady want to go to a potential contender seeking a winning QB to push it to the top? Perhaps Tennessee, where former teammate Mike Vrabel is the coach? Or Chicago with its strong defense?

Brady and Rivers hardly are the only passers likely available. Cam Newton, Nick Foles, Joe Flacco, Marcus Mariota, Andy Dalton, Ryan Tannehill and perhaps Jameis Winston could be out there.

OPI/DPI

The adjustment to the pass interference rules that al-



Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton arrives for the NFL Honors football award show Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

lowed video reviews was a flop. Coaches who were so adamant about needing a change after the egregiously botched call in the NFC title game a year ago got little to no traction with their challenges. Interference became an even

murkier proposition.

Will the powerful competition committee recommend more alterations? Or drop the modification altogether?

LABOR AND 17 GAMES

Commissioner Roger Goodell has been encour-

aged by negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement. The current 10-year deal expires in March 2021, but the league in particular is eager to get a contract finalized well before that. Indeed, well before next season.

Union officials are being coy, but simply the fact both sides have been meeting semi-regularly and reaching accords on a variety of issues is good news. The public expects the main sticking point to be expanding the regular season by one game, which would include reducing the preseason, probably adding another bye week and pushing the Super Bowl back into mid-February. Player safety concerns need to be paramount in any such discussions.

But 17 games could be a done deal if the union gets, say, three or four more roster spots per franchise. That's anywhere from 96 to 128 additional jobs.

TUA

Cincinnati doesn't need to wait until April 23 to announce LSU All-America quarterback Joe Burrow as the top overall draft choice. That's a no-brainer, even for the Bengals. □

Continued from page 18

The measure, named after the Moscow lab director who blew the whistle on Russia's cheating at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, calls for fines of up to \$1 million and prison sentences of up to 10 years for those who participate in schemes designed to influence international sports competitions through doping. (Individual athletes who get caught doping would not be subject to punishment under the law.)

It would also allow the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency to obtain information collected by federal investigators, which could help in prosecuting anti-doping cases. The WADA letter said the agency agrees with the information-sharing language.

But there is also a long list of concerns, notably over

the "extraterritorial" jurisdiction the bill proposes — a clause that would allow U.S. authorities to pursue those who perpetuate doping schemes at international events in which Americans are involved as athletes, sponsors or broadcasters. Many U.S. corruption laws, including those used to prosecute FIFA executives in the soccer-bidding scandal, include similar extraterritorial jurisdiction. "The effort to criminalize doping acts under U.S. law and then apply that law extraterritorially (cq) will shatter the international harmonization of rules that is critical to advancing clean sport," WADA wrote in the memo. It predicted that if the U.S. passes the law, "other nations will follow suit and inevitably competing jurisdiction on the same set of facts will result in confusion,

weaken the system, and compromise the quest for clean sport."

The athlete-advocacy group FairSport sent out a news release responding to the WADA document, giving a point-by-point rebuttal of the clauses with which the agency disagrees.

In that statement, Rodchenkov's attorney, Jim Walden, said similar laws with extraterritorial jurisdiction weren't always popular "with corrupt nations."

The Rodchenkov act "will do the same in the fight against doping fraud deployed by gangster states who hijack international sports competitions," Walden said.

At meetings last November, WADA officials took criticism for lobbying efforts on the bill, which has bipartisan support in Congress.

"If we, as payers to you, use

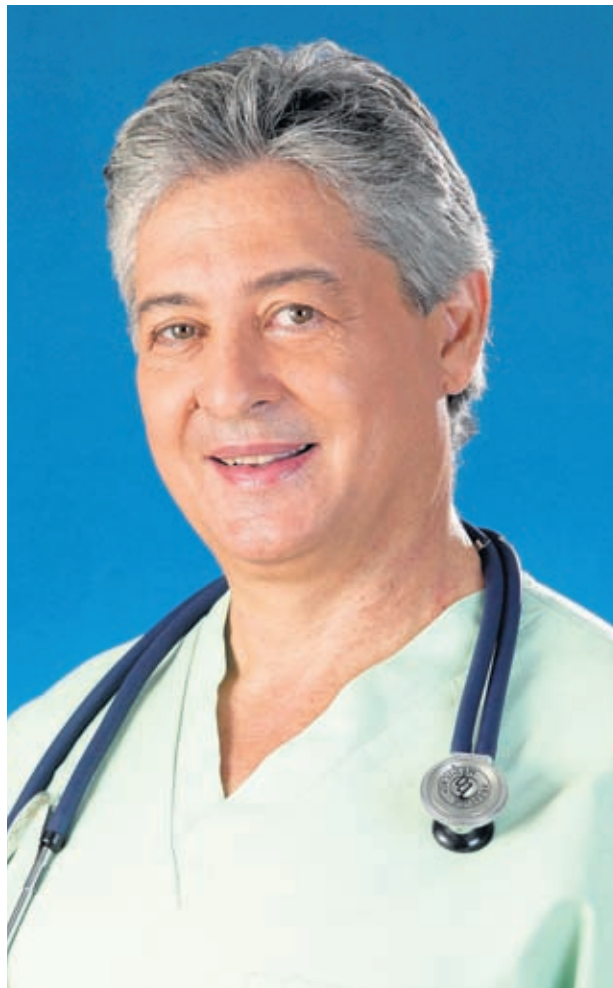
those funds to undermine legislation, then that's not going to be a cooperative and effective way to go forward," said Kendel Ehrlich, the U.S. government representative on WADA's foundation board.

The U.S. government provides about \$2.5 million annually to WADA.

In its letter to the Senators, WADA also defended its action in the long-running doping case involving Russia. WADA recently ruled on the latest development in the Russia saga: proof that the country had tampered with the data it was supposed to turn over as part of a deal to be reinstated. WADA set a framework that would ban the Russian flag and its dignitaries from the upcoming Tokyo Games while allowing for some of the country's athletes to compete.

Russia appealed that case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and on Tuesday, WADA asked the hearing to be made public. WADA said it was urging a "go-slow" approach to any legislation "authored in revulsion to Russia's cheating." "Such a move would jeopardize the international system, could undercut the foundation upon which WADA sanctioned Russia; and send shockwaves through the system precisely at a time when clean sport needs a strong and globally recognized system," the letter said.

Niggli wanted it made clear that WADA's intent is not to scuttle the bill. But, he told AP, "currently, there are elements of the Act that could backfire and be counter-productive for the protection of clean sport around the world." □



by Carlos M Viana

SANTA CRUZ - Traditional Chinese Medical wisdom reminds us that something as small as the flutter of a butterfly's wing can ultimately cause a hurricane halfway around the world. The admonition is to remember the cascading effects on a person's health with just the smallest alteration to the body. For us Oriental Medical Doctors health is maintained by attaining a delicate balance of yin and yang energies.

Blooming orchids sway in the early morning breeze in our clinic's consultation area located under the shade of a huge Ficus Benjamin. The waiting area is filled with women suffering from many different symptoms. A young female adolescent is here with her parents who are concerned that their daughter is showing signs of sexual maturation at age nine. I see swollen legs on another woman suffering from water retention while her waist and hips sag from the stored fat.

Women have come to our clinic because of sluggish blood circulation, debilitating migraine headaches; others are here because fibroids

and endometriosis is making getting pregnant difficult. Others are here for looking for help with mood swings. Some slightly older women are here with open leg sores developed because their small arteries have clotted impairing their circulation. I recognize a woman who has had a slight stroke and wants our help to prevent another.

Today is another day of helping these women to get a control of their sex hormones. Most women in our Western cultures are estrogen dominant, but there are aspects that are worsening the situation. I never would want to take away a woman's right to take charge of her body to take steps to avoid unplanned pregnancies or reduce the symptoms of menopause. The ability of synthetic estrogen drugs to prevent unplanned pregnancies and reduce menopause symptoms might be reassuring to many women, but the side effects can be devastating.

Many women who use hormone drugs complain of severe abdominal pain that cannot be explained by food intake or stomach flu; severe or sudden chest pain or shortness of breath; unusual or suddenly severe headaches with dizziness or vomiting; eye problems that include blurred vision, flashing lights or blindness; severe leg pain or numbness in the calf or thigh. Other women will complain of nausea; skin changes; and weight change or fluid retention. Hormone replacement (HRT) for menopause, "The Pill", especially the latest "patch" that limit your cycle to only four periods a year contain large amounts of estrogen that will increase your risk of heart attacks, breast cancers, strokes and pulmonary embolism.

Worse of all for many women and men, birth control pills or the "patch" mask the ovarian function, floods your body with excessive estrogen that thickens your vaginal lining and chills up your G-spot and epicenter nerves due to insufficient testosterone and kills the secretion during sex of the orgasm hormone, Oxytocin, from the pituitary gland. You can be very wet but cannot get an orgasm.

Many young women who are using birth control pills to control their menstrual cycles, irregular bleeding, cysts, or endometriosis are headed to more problems. Birth control pills never correct the underlying dysfunction. It is essential to balance the adrenal glands in these situations, as cortisol levels modulate and control the female hormones, especially progesterone. Most of the

menstrual problems, but certainly not all, are related to low progesterone levels in the last half of the cycle.

Oral contraceptives and HRT are synthetic hormones that the body is not designed to be exposed to. Long term use will invariably increase the user's risk of developing serious chronic illness. It is important to remember that synthetic hormone drugs can deplete your body of B – complex vitamins, folic acid, vitamin C, magnesium and zinc.

The use of birth control pills is a major risk factor for developing yeast overgrowth because it promotes estrogen dominance. Because birth control pills give a woman's hormonal system a continual stream of estrogen, an imbalance is created. The yeast, *Candida albicans*, generally makes its home in the digestive tract. But, in a modern society where common lifestyle choices for women include birth control pills, antibiotics, a highly refined bread and sugar diet, coupled with high stress levels, *Candida* overgrowth can have wide-ranging effects causing problems far beyond the common vaginal infection.

Symptoms ranging from migraines to infertility, endometriosis, psoriasis, PMS, depression, fibromyalgia, digestive disorders and many other seemingly unrelated health problems have been attributed to yeast overgrowth. Our clinical results show that treating yeast overgrowth with colon hydrotherapy and dietary changes often alleviates these symptoms. These symptoms can be so widespread that it is difficult for patients and most doctors to comprehend that this could be related to one underlying cause. Get the Point! In my professional opinion, birth control pills or hormone replacement for menopause have absolutely no therapeutic benefit that outweighs their huge risks. In our clinic we ask all of our patients to stop them at the end of their current cycle. I am sympathetic to couples who want to avoid unplanned pregnancies and women who want to lessen their hot flashes. I concede that synthetic estrogen drugs have provided an easy, but unsafe means to family planning and lessening menopause symptoms. There are numerous safe and effective ways to prevent unwanted pregnancies and lower the symptoms of menopause. A synthetic estrogen hormone pill might be a small flutter in your day that could be causing your medical hurricane. ☐

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Millennial Money: You're an online fraud target — fight back

By SEAN PYLES of NerdWallet

Millennials grew up online. From making their first screen names with America Online in the '90s and poking around chatrooms, to using HTML to customize their Myspace pages in high school, and now curating their Instagram feeds, navigating the internet is second nature to these digital natives.

But this ever-online generation may be uniquely positioned as targets of internet scams.

Millennials are 25% more likely to report losing money to fraud than those over 40, according to an October 2019 report by the Federal Trade Commission. The report also found this age group:

Was twice as likely to report falling victim to shopping fraud.

Reported getting bested by business and debt relief scams in greater numbers. Was 77% more likely than older consumers to report losing money to a scam that started over email.

While millennials are more likely to report this kind of fraud, the tools to prevent and recover from such scams apply to consumers of any age.

BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA SHOPPING

It's become a meme of its own: "What it looks like online versus what you get when it arrives." That dress or pair of sneakers may look good online, but when it arrives, you find that the dress looks like a dishrag and the sneakers are held together with hot glue.

Millennials are twice as like-

ly to report losing money to items that are different from what they expected or that never show up, compared to those over 40. This all-too-common occurrence might seem like the cost of doing business online, but it's actually a form of online shopping fraud.

Misleading ads in social media feeds and for online-only stores may be to blame for more frequent reports of shopping fraud, says Charity Lacey, vice president of communications at Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers recover from identity theft.

Lacey warns consumers to exercise caution before purchasing items from any unfamiliar company they encounter online, especially if it seems like they're selling only one or a handful of products, since that can be a warning sign of a scam company. "I would liken this to the guy with the trench coat selling watches and gold chains," says Lacey.

What you can do: Vet any company before you buy from it online. Proceed with caution if the company doesn't have an address listed online, has no clear return policy and sells only the one item you saw advertised.

Use a credit card when shopping online, advises Lisa Schifferle, staff attorney at the FTC. That way, if you encounter fraud, you can take advantage of protections under the Fair Credit Billing Act, which can help you get reimbursed.

Report the fraud to your credit card company and file a complaint with the

FTC as soon as you think there's a problem, Schifferle says. Gather information about the transaction, including purchase amount, vendor name and transaction date, before contacting your card issuer. This information should be on your billing statement. You may also want to request a new credit card number to protect yourself.

BEWARE OF WORK SCAMS

The saying "you have to spend money to make money" shouldn't apply to a job offer, but that's exactly the trick of some employment scammers.

The fake company offers a business opportunity of some sort, such as a work-at-home job, but says you'll have to pay a fee upfront for training or other work-related materials. Then the job never materializes, and your money is gone.

What you can do: Be wary of any organization that asks you to pay for training or a job opportunity that seems too good to be true. Report scams to the FTC.

DOUBT DEBT RELIEF OFFERS

Millennials are notoriously debt-saddled, so it might not be surprising that this generation also reports more instances of falling victim to debt relief scams. In fact, millennials were 86% more likely to report losing money to debt relief scams compared to those over



In this Dec. 12, 2016 file photo, a person searches the internet for sales, in Miami.

Associated Press

40. Some scams work by having you pay an upfront fee for their services — and then never deliver on their promise. Know that it's il-

legal for a company to charge upfront fees in this way. □

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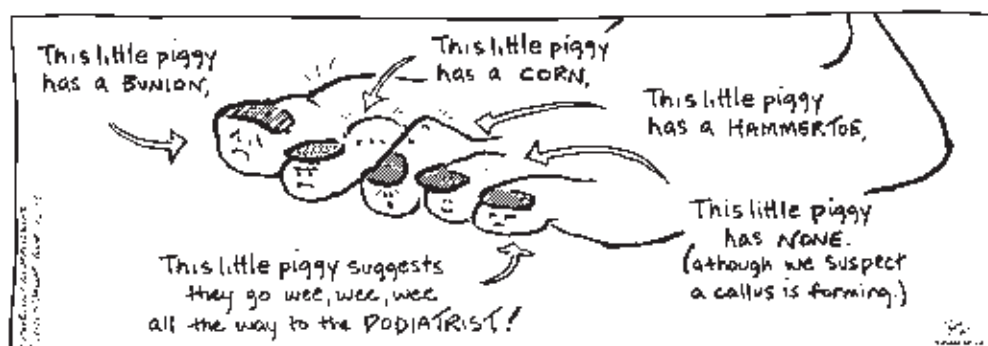
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Conceptis Sudoku



THAT GIRL I LIKE DELETED ALL MY PICS AGAIN, MR. B.

WELL, DIDN'T YOU HAVE THEM BACKED UP?

NOPE! SHE EVEN DELETED THE PIC OF THAT QUINTUPLE BROWNIE OVERLOAD SUNDAE WE MADE!

THERE'LL BE OTHER SUNDAES, DEAR...GO TO SLEEP

NOPE, THAT QUINTUPLE WAS PRETTY MUCH ONE OF A KIND!

BOB FAWCETT

GREAT NEWS, DAD!
I FOUND SOME SNOW!

WHERE?

IT'S JUST RIGHT UP THERE.

THAT MOUNTAIN IS A SIX-HOUR DRIVE FROM HERE!

MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY COUGH ALONE.

DON'T QUOTE SCRIPTURE TO ME.

WARREN, RICK. 2005. THE MOUNTAIN IS A SIX-HOUR DRIVE FROM HERE. 2-5.

6	4	7	5	1	2	5
	2	4		6	1	9
3		6		8		4
9		2		5		3
1	7				2	5
	8				3	
		8		9		
		5	3	7		

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

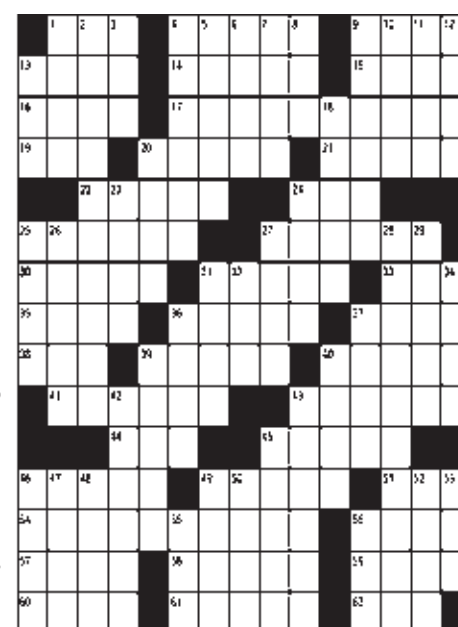
230

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	8	9	1	4	2	6	7	5	3
	5	2	4	7	1	3	8	6	9
	3	6	7	5	8	9	2	4	1
	4	5	6	2	3	1	9	8	7
	2	1	8	9	7	5	6	3	4
	9	7	3	8	6	4	1	2	5
	1	4	5	6	9	8	3	7	2
	7	8	9	3	5	2	4	1	6
	6	3	2	1	4	7	5	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 Org. for
Blackhawks &
Bruins
4 sprawl;
expansion of city
areas
9 Baby's bee
13 Duncan toy
14 Yany Tyler
15 Dance that
no judges hand
trillions
16 On, clumsy mat'
17 Promptly
19 In a t' do's
20 Has supper
21 Push on w/ force
22 Second s
to lower
24 Record speed
ellers
25 Qing
27 Company
32 Vagn' heart
31 Less mad in color
33 Objective
35 Vagn' direction



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2.520

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

CARD	PLATTI	STAB
UBER	LUAUS	TUBE
PELE	UNBEAR	ABLE
SEE	ACTS	UNSER
NICKS	LIZ	
CATCHY	BANANA	
ALLEY	SPRIG	AMA
LIED	LURIO	STAY
LBS	DEPOT	MAIZE
ISSUES	HEROES	
PER	SATIN	
ASSET	HENS	WOOL
SALES	CLERK	LION
AGED	SALVE	ADZE
NEWS	IDLER	CEES

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252

- DOWN**
1 Yiddish
2 Theory that begins with

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 37 Black-and-white
birds | 47 W/out a
happy-go-lucky |
| 39 Wore nitted | 48 w/ insinuates |
| 45 Woney,
slangy | 49 Ge estry |
| 42 Warm greeting | 50 Flooring pece |
| 43 I AX emails | 52 Amias |
| 45 Wincmipoop | 53 Embankment |
| 46 Venetan binds
piece | 55 Fore and |
| | 56 Once blue
moon |

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\$4 K
Divi Links Golf \$1,5 K
Carnival week sleep 4
Date :02/15 to 02/22/ 2020

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum
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2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean View \$26 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum
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2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K
3 BR Ocean View \$26 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR WK 8
Building 6 on the 4th floor
27 weeks remain \$15 K
1 BR WK 11
building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$15 K

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR Week # 8/9
Penthouse 14th floor
with 32/22 weeks remain
\$20 K both weeks

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 4 \$8 K
Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
Studio WK # 5
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K
28 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 6 \$8 K
Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
Studio wk 7/8
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each
27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 8/9
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each
with 27/19 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK #11
Birdie 3 \$9 K
26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13
ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

Divi Village

Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K
Building F
21 weeks remain
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K
25 weeks remain

Dutch Village

1 BR WK 9
16 weeks remain
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12 weeks remain
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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February 6
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Norwegian Dawn

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Downtown

Open sores, lower numbers likely not invasive lionfish's end

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A new disease has caused open sores that can eat into the muscles of invasive lionfish and appears to have contributed to an abrupt drop in their numbers in the northern Gulf of Mexico, scientists reported Tuesday. But they hasten to say it's probably far from the end of the showy invader with long, venomous spines.

Lionfish may even already be bouncing back, said University of Florida doctoral student Holden Harris, lead author of the article published online in *Scientific Reports*. Numbers of the smallest lionfish taken by spearfishers were way down in 2018, indicating a possible reduction in spawning, but were rising late that year and in early 2019, he said.

"It's too early, really, to say if that'll become a full population recovery," he said.

It's an interesting development, said Matthew Johnston, a Nova Southeastern University researcher who has written scientific papers about invasive lionfish but had not known about the lesions or population changes. "We've always been wondering if they're ever going to reach their limit in certain locations," he said. "To date it seemed the populations just kept getting larger and larger and larger."

One reason lionfish are a problem outside their native Indo-Pacific is that their hunting method was new to their adopted territory, so their prey hadn't evolved countermeasures. The big-mouthed fish hover over smaller fish, then suddenly gulp them down, swallowing prey up to half their own length. Sometimes they blow jets



This photo shows a lionfish in the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas at New Orleans on Sept. 23, 2018.

of water to make small plankton-eaters face them, then vacuum them in. They have few natural predators in the area, where they eat native fish and compete with them for food.

"They've pretty much colonized the entire Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico and up the East Coast of the U.S. up to about Cape Hatteras. But it's just about impossible to estimate how many there are," Johnston said. "They're found very deep and in lots of places we can't look easily."

Researchers measured the Gulf of Mexico changes in a number of ways besides the proportion of little lionfish in spearfishers' totals. They analyzed videos tak-

en by remotely operated underwater vehicles in a 20,000-square-kilometer (7,700-square-mile) area of the Gulf of Mexico that has been regularly surveyed for a wide variety of species since the BP oil spill in 2010. They looked at the weight of lionfish landed in commercial fishing trips and at numbers of fish taken per reef in lionfishing contests. And by all of those measures, numbers fell in 2017 and 2018. "The magnitudes of the declines were striking," Harris said.

The densities shown in underwater vehicle footage dropped about 75 percent, said coauthor William F. Patterson III, an associate professor of marine fisheries

ecology at the University of Florida. Commercial landings fell 52% from 2017 to 2018. And, though lionfish tournament catches rose each year, spearfishers had to hunt more reefs to find them.

Patterson said scientists haven't yet analyzed underwater videos from 2019. Many invasive species have gone through boom-and-bust cycles, he noted. One of the spearfishers who first brought the lesions to light said lionfish numbers on his hunting grounds have stayed low although the sores seem "pretty much nonexistent now."

Alexander Q. Fogg, a study coauthor and marine resources coordinator for the Okaloosa County, Florida, Board of County Commissioners, regularly catches lionfish to help control their numbers and to sell as food. He said his diving partner, Josh Livingston of Dreadknot Charters, first noticed sick or injured lionfish off artificial reefs near Destin, Florida on Aug. 5, 2017.

"He said he noticed a lot of

fish had wounds. I dismissed it," Fogg recounted. But every dive that day brought up fish with lesions. Out of 503 lionfish, 201 had ulcers. Ulcerated fish have since been reported around Florida and throughout the Caribbean. The University of Florida put a first report about the ulcers online in September 2018.

"We're still trying to figure out what's going on," said Roy P.E. Yanong, of the Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory at the university's program in fisheries and aquatic sciences. Tests for molds, bacteria and viruses didn't indicate a likely culprit, he said.

One problem, he said, is that the sores were open to microorganisms in the water and en route to a lab. Finding fish in a very early stage of the process would probably help, but that itself has been a problem, he said.

Environmental factors could also be a major cause, Yanong said. Other possible causes could include physical trauma and parasite infection, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spokeswoman Allison Garrett said.

"It could be a combination," said Johnston of Nova Southeastern. "They're overcrowded, they're competing for food ... and the gene pool's really shallow." He said genetic studies have shown the invaders are descended from a small number of lionfish. "So if one gets sick they're all susceptible to the same thing."

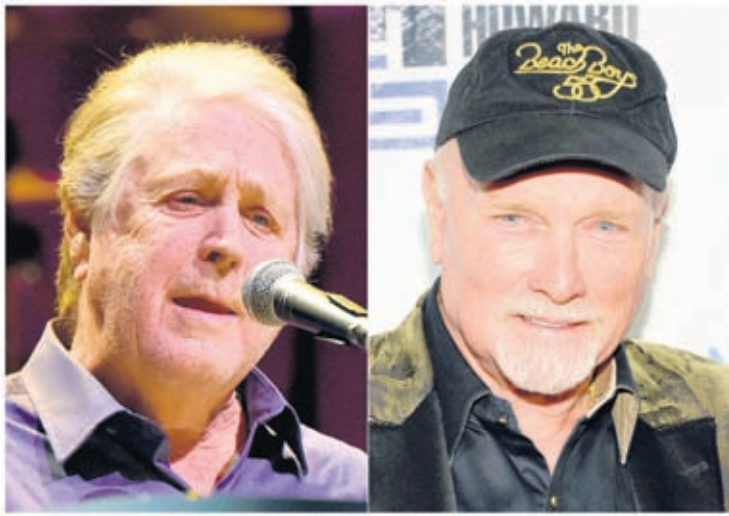
Lionfish were first sighted off Florida in 1985; aquarium hobbyists may well have started the invasion by dumping fish into the ocean, according to NOAA.

University of Florida's Harris said researchers had two big worries when reporting about the sores: that people might think lionfish were unsafe to eat, and that they might think that nature had ended the invasion.

"The densities have gone down in some places. We don't know if they'll stay down," he said. □

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This combination photo shows Brian Wilson performing at the Rosemont Theatre in Rosemont, Ill., on Oct 6, 2017, left, and Mike Love at "Howard Stern's Birthday Bash" in New York on Jan. 31, 2014.

Associated Press

No good vibrations for Beach Boys, split by hunting concert

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the co-founders of The Beach Boys has joined a boycott of his own music to protest it being used by another band member at an animal hunting convention.

Brian Wilson has denounced a performance of Beach Boys music on Wednesday at the Safari Club International Convention in Reno, Nevada. The concert is being led by The Beach Boys' co-founder, lead singer and chief lyricist Mike Love.

In a tweet, Wilson said he and band member Al Jardine are "emphatically opposed" to trophy hunting. He then pointed to a Change.org petition that calls for a boycott of Beach Boys' music until the performance is canceled.

The petition had garnered some 95,000 signatures by Tuesday afternoon.

The annual Safari Club convention has drawn protests by animal rights groups such as the Humane Society for profiting from the hunting of endangered animals and promoting unethical hunting practices. This year's keynote speaker is Donald Trump Jr.

In response, Love offered a statement to Pitchfork magazine: "We look forward to a night of great music in Reno and, as always, support freedom of thought and expression as a fundamental tenet of our rights as Americans."

The Beach Boys are known for sunny harmonies in such songs as "California Girls," "I Get Around," "Fun Fun Fun," "Good Vibrations" and "Kokomo." □



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Lupita Nyong'o in a scene from "Us."

Associated Press

Top films were more diverse than ever before, study finds

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hollywood's awards season may not show it, but the most popular films are increasingly diverse, a new study finds.

According to new research released Tuesday by the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, more of 2019's top movies featured minority or female lead characters than ever recorded before.

Analyzing the top 100 films at the North American box office, USC researchers found that 31 movies had leads or co-leads from an underrepresented racial group, an increase of four films from 2018 and nearly triple the number of 10 years ago.

The data showed similar gains for female leads. Of the same films, 43 featured female leads or co-leads, an increase of four films from 2018 and more than double the number of female leads (20) in 2007.

Combined with studies released last month that showed a notable uptick in

the numbers of female directors, the research paints a picture of an industry that, after years of lagging behind in representation in front of and behind the camera, is showing real signs of progress. While still falling short of an accurate reflection of the American population (51% of which is female and about 40% are people of color), researchers called it "a banner year for inclusion."

"It is clear that Hollywood is taking steps to create more inclusive stories and that those films are connecting with audiences," Stacy L. Smith, founder of the Inclusion Initiative, said in statement.

But those gains haven't been reflected in Hollywood's awards season, which culminates Sunday with the Academy Awards. For the 87th time, no female filmmakers were nominated for best director. And while the much-nominated Korean drama "Parasite" has made history, only one person of color (Cynthia Erivo, for "Harriet") was nominated in an acting category. At the British

Academy of Film and Television Awards on Sunday, only white actors were nominated.

"There is also a very obvious disconnect between what sells tickets and what garners awards points to a systemic bias at cultural institutions like the BAFTAs or the Academy Awards," Smith said. "After another year in which the major studios increased their output of films with female and underrepresented leads or co leads, it is critical to recognize that talent is not limited by gender or race/ethnicity."

The USC study also assessed the major distributors. Because box office is a key metric in their research, that doesn't include releases from streaming services including Netflix and Amazon, neither of which disclosed ticket sales for most of their 2019 releases.

Universal, the only studio led by a woman (studio chief Donna Langley), led all studios with nine films featuring a female lead and eight films featuring leads from an underrepresented ethnicity. □



This image released by Neon shows Hatidze Muratova in a scene from "Honeyland," nominated for an Oscar for best documentary and best international feature film.

Associated Press

Making Oscar history, 'Honeyland' shatters borders

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ljubomir Stefanov and Tamara Kotevska were in a hard-to-reach area of Northern Macedonia — about as far from the Oscars as possible — when they came upon the beekeeper who would be their subject in their acclaimed documentary "Honeyland." While working on a short video commissioned by a nature conservancy project, the filmmakers met Hatidze Muratova, a middle-aged woman who ekes out a hardscrabble and solitary existence harvesting honey with ancient, sustainable methods across the craggy mountainous landscape of the former Yugoslav republic while caring for her half-blind and bedridden mother in a modest home without electricity.

In Muratova, they recognized not just a noble, almost timeless figure of environmental symbolism but an inspiring character deserving of attention. Muratova hadn't set out to live in near isolation; while her village dwindled, she stayed behind to care for her mother. "Honeyland" is, in a way, her liberation.

"This woman is somebody who is a true talent and a great lover of humans," Kotevska said in an interview by phone alongside Stefanov. "She's an extrovert. But life conditions brought her where she is. She was trapped in that life. When we showed up, it was a way of freedom for her. It was a way of expressing her life and her story to us."

Of all the personalities that will be coming to the Academy Awards on Sunday, few can hold a candle to Hatidze. She will be there, the filmmakers say, in what promises to be both an astounding culture clash and a triumphant moment for a humble, heroic woman who never sought the spotlight.

In Macedonia, Kotevska says, she's living the role of

"a national hero." "People are obviously tired of fake heroes that are beyond everyone," says Kotevska.

"Honeyland" has already made history. It's the first film ever nominated for both best documentary and best international film, the category formerly dubbed best foreign language film. The dual honors make "Honeyland" a quietly revolutionary Oscar nominee, one that speaks to both the increasingly boundless nature of documentary filmmaking and the specific greatness of "Honeyland."

The film tracks Muratova's life, including astoundingly intimate scenes with her mother, Nazife, and her sustainable methods of wild beekeeping. Muratova takes half of the honey and leaves the other half for the bees, a balance that allows the combs to continue and flourish. But when a chaotic and unruly family of nine moves in next door and tries to crudely practice beekeeping with less patience, "Honeyland" becomes a starkly simple environmental allegory.

Stefanov believes this elemental conflict is why their film, which won several top prizes at last year's Sundance Film Festival, has so resonated. The neighbors — Hussein Sam, his wife and their seven children — aren't exactly villains; they're doing their best while saddled with debts and many mouths to feed. "It shows how greediness works on a very basic level," says Stefanov.

"It's a community of three people. It would be the same if you had thousands with an optimal livelihood and somebody came and said, 'Hey, I will give you more.' That sentence is the strongest reason why we are facing what we are today."

"What we found in this community is something that is everywhere in the world," he adds.

It took an unusual amount of dedication to capture

that community. Stefanov and Kotevska used an off-road vehicle to reach Muratova's home and in two-to-three day stretches stayed in tents nearby while shooting. In winter, it was too cold to stay the night. All told, they spent three years filming and accumulated more than 400 hours of footage.

Most strikingly, Muratova often spoke Turkish, including in the scenes with her mother, a language that the Macedonian filmmakers don't speak. They were often shooting purely from a visual standpoint. Only later, after assembling a cut of the film, did they get transcripts of what they had shot. Surprisingly few changes were necessary.

"Honeyland," which is currently streaming on Hulu and available to rent on Amazon and elsewhere, has tried to funnel some of its success back to its subjects. Jars of honey are for sale with proceeds going to Muratova and the Sam family — which now numbers 10. (They had another child on the day of the movie's Sundance premiere.)

Modern life seems very distant in "Honeyland," but it makes occasional cameos. Muratova travels by foot to the Macedonia capital of Skopje to sell her honey and buy a few necessities, like hair dye. But the Oscars will be a far greater rush of modernity for Muratova. The filmmakers, who arrived in Los Angeles last week, can't wait to see it. "It will be very exciting for everyone," says Kotevska.

"Honeyland," they hope, is a sign of old borders disintegrating.

"A good story is a good story no matter where it comes from. What's important is that we can see it," says Kotevska. "'Honeyland' being nominated in these two categories just shows that eventually the form of film will change. The genre will not be that important. It will not be put in a folder. It will be more free storytelling."

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Miami sees a return to Cold War cultural hard line on Cuba

By GISELA SALOMON

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Platinum-selling reggaeton act Gente de Zona were barred from a New Year's Eve concert in a Miami park. The mayor of Miami declared another Cuban singer persona non grata and her concert in a private club was cancelled.

Fellow artists Jacob Forever y El Micha were shut out of a July 4 concert the neighboring South Florida city of Hialeah last year.

As President Donald Trump tightens the trade embargo on Cuba, some members of the United States' largest Cuban-American community are once again taking a hard line on performers from the island who support its communist government or don't speak out against it.

The degree of support for a hard line on Cuba among South Florida's roughly 1.2 million Cuban-Americans could influence the 2020 presidential election. Partly because of Republican anti-communism, Cuban-Americans have long been an historically GOP-supporting bloc in a swing state with 29 electoral college votes.

While some polls in recent years have shown weakening Cuban-American support for the embargo, observers say Trump's attempts to cut off the government's income is emboldening activists who want to punish the Cuban government and its supporters in hopes of fueling regime change.

One of those activists is Alex Otaola, a 40-year-old Cuban-born YouTube personality who has organized boycotts of figures like Gente de Zona and singer Haila Mompié that have led to de facto bans on their performing in South Florida.

Gente de Zona earned Otaola's wrath by praising Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel. Mompié was blacklisted for praising and kissing revolutionary leader Fidel Castro during a concert in 2010.

"These are artists with ties to the Cuban dictatorship, who are used as tools of the dictatorship," said Otaola, who emigrated from Cuba in 2003.

He said he was offended by artists who support communism at home but make money by performing for Cuban-Americans in South



In this Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020 photo, Alex Otaola speaks during an interview in Miami. Otaola, a 40-year-old Cuban-born YouTube personality who has organized boycotts of Cuban figures like Gente de Zona and singer Haila Mompié that have led to de facto bans on their performing in South Florida.

Associated Press

Florida.

"Enough of the hypocrisy," he said.

But many Cuban-Americans interviewed by The Associated Press said they disagreed with the cultural hard line.

Carlos Nardo, a retiree who arrived in 1970 and has never gone back to the island, said he does not agree with the cancella-

tion of concerts.

"It is art, they are artists," said Nardo. "If you are against them, don't go to their performances."

Gente de Zona were barred from a concert organized by the Cuban-American singer Pitbull in a public park in Miami after Republican Miami Mayor Francis Suárez spoke out against them.

"You have to understand that an artist who declares themselves in favor of communism or gives communism credibility is considered persona non grata," Suárez said, a Republican. "It's not about intolerance or censorship, it's about respect and recognizing the mortifying history of communism, especially in Cuba." □

Celebrated book editor Alice Mayhew dies at age 87

NEW YORK (AP) — Alice Mayhew, the celebrated and influential editor of political and historical works whose authors ranged from Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein to Taylor Branch and Doris Kearns Goodwin, died Tuesday at age 87.

Simon & Schuster, which she joined in 1971, announced that she died "peacefully" at her home in Manhattan. Her death came days after the loss of another Simon & Schuster institution, novelist Mary Higgins Clark, who died last week.

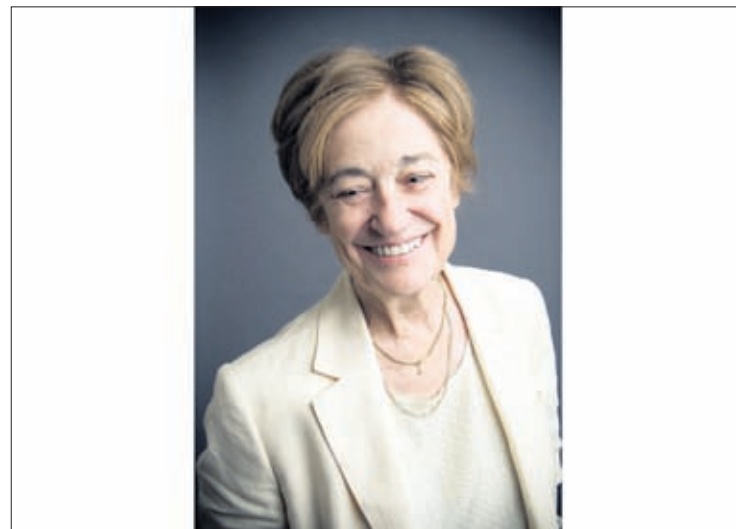
A New York City native, Mayhew edited some of the most notable nonfiction releases of the past half century, including Wood-

ward and Bernstein's landmark Watergate best-seller "All the President's Men," among the first books to broadly investigate a sitting presidential administration; the feminist classic "Our Bodies, Ourselves"; Branch's Pulitzer Prize winning "Parting the Waters" and Goodwin's Pulitzer Prize winning "No Ordinary Time." She also worked with former President Jimmy Carter, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the historians Stephen Ambrose, Michael Beschloss and David Herbert Donald among others.

In 2018, she oversaw one of the top-selling books about the Trump administration,

"Fear," by Woodward, whom she edited for more than 40 years.

"Alice's loyalty to her authors was so absolute that despite her extraordinary record in publishing and the many offers she received over the years, she repeatedly refused to participate in any form of publicity or recognition for her achievements, never wavering in her conviction that the spotlight should always remain entirely focused on her authors," Simon & Schuster CEO Carolyn Reidy wrote Tuesday. Along with her many successes, Mayhew was involved with publications that were challenged



This undated image released by Simon & Schuster shows Alice Mayhew, editor of such acclaimed books as "All the President's Men" and "Parting the Waters." Mayhew died Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 at her Manhattan home at the age of 87. (

Associated Press

and even withdrawn. In the early 2000s, books by Goodwin and Ambrose were found to contain extensive lifting of material without proper credit, leading to the cancellation of Goodwin's "The Fitzgeralds

and the Kennedys." Last year, Mayhew edited "Merchants of Truth," by former New York Times executive editor Jill Abramson, a media critique that also included passages not fully credited. □

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